HAUNTED HOUSE

TOKYOPOP

HAUNTED HOUSE

Mitsukazu Mihara

CONTENTS

1 5

2 29

3 53

4 73

5 101

6 125

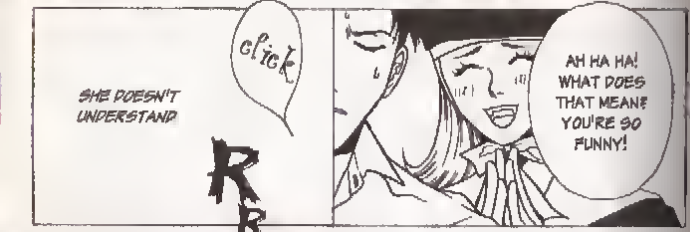
7 141

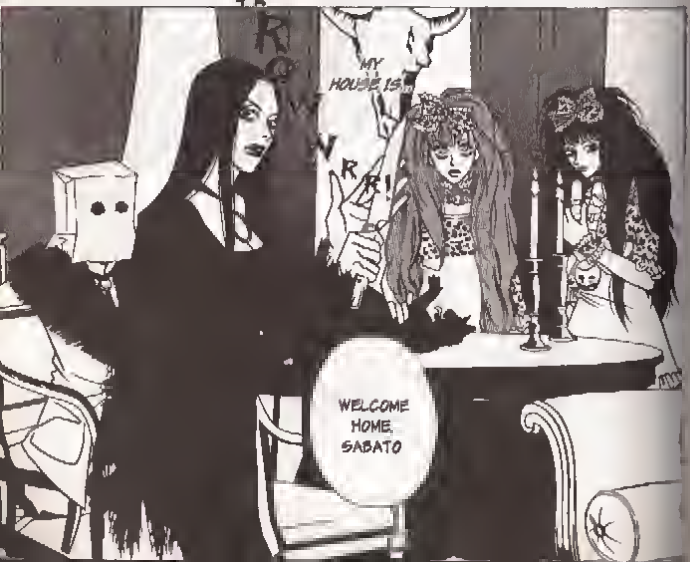
8 163

1

A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THAT THEIR LIVES ARE LIVING HELLS, RIGHT?
REALLY? HEH HEH...
YEAH.
I'M SO HAPPY! WE'VE NEVER GONE TO YOUR HOUSE BEFORE.
NOW, I SHOULD WARN YOU, MY FAMILY'S A LITTLE... ECCENTRIC.
DO YOU HAVE ANY BROTHERS OR SISTERS?
UH, SISTERS TWINS..
NO WAY!

WELL, THEY'RE KINDA...DEATH FLAVORED.
REALLY? HOW SO?


click
SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND
AH HA HA! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? YOU'RE SO FUNNY!


MY HOUSE IS...
WELCOME HOME, SABATO

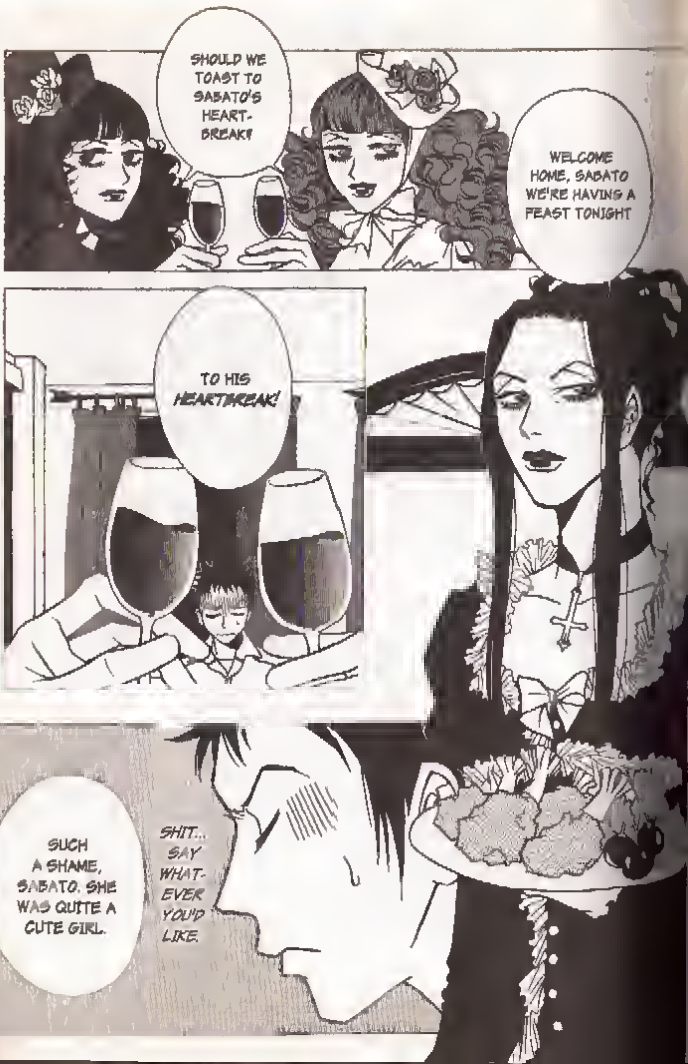
WHA-WHA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MOM!
I THOUGHT I'D COOK SOMETHING SPECIAL...
.....
...ON ACCOUNT OF OUR GUEST
GRR!
HSSS!
HUH? WHERE DID SHE GO?
AND AFTER YOUR MOTHER WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF MAKING A DOUBLE-BERRY PIE ESPECIALLY FOR HER, SABATO
YOU WERE ABOUT TO GUT THE CAT, DAD! HOW COULD YOU BLAME HER FOR RUNNING OFF?!
GUT THE CAT?
WE WERE JUST PLAYING WITH SUKEKIYO.
MIRROW!

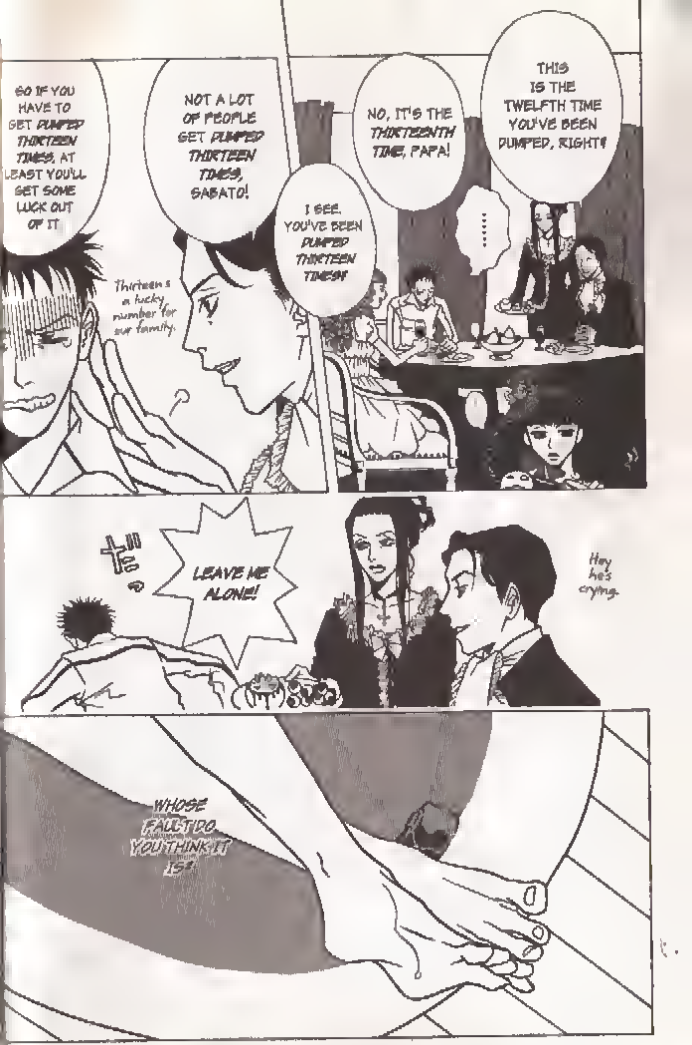
HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT HAPPENED?! GIVE ME A BREAK!
Tee hee!
Tee hee!
POOR THING, DUMPED AGAIN
WE'RE JUST WORRIED
IF YOU CAN'T GET ALONG WITH YOUR FAMILY, SABATO, HOW EVER DO YOU HOPE TO SURVIVE ON THE HARSH STREETS ALONE?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
AM I THE ONLY SANE ONE IN THIS HOUSE?!
CAN'T YOU PEOPLE BE MORE NORMAL?!
GOOD! NOW YOU'RE TALKING, MY BOY!
JUST BURN THIS HOUSE DOWN!

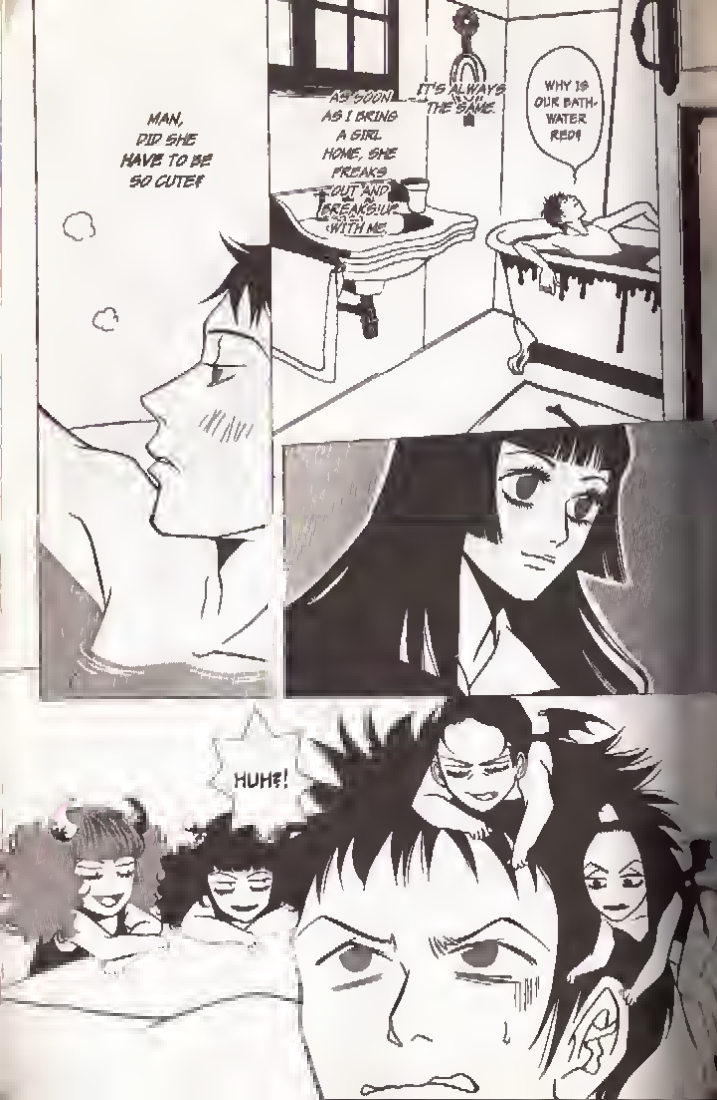
SO I DUMPED AGAIN?
IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
And I wasn't dumped!
I TELL YOU, I'D SELL MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL IF IT WOULD MAKE THAT FAMILY NORMAL
NO, THE DEVIL'S NO GOOD, THAT'D JUST ENCOURAGE THEM
I LIKE YOUR FAMILY. THEY'RE UNIQUE.
And your brothers are really hot!
But still...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU ONLY THINK THAT 'CAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THEM

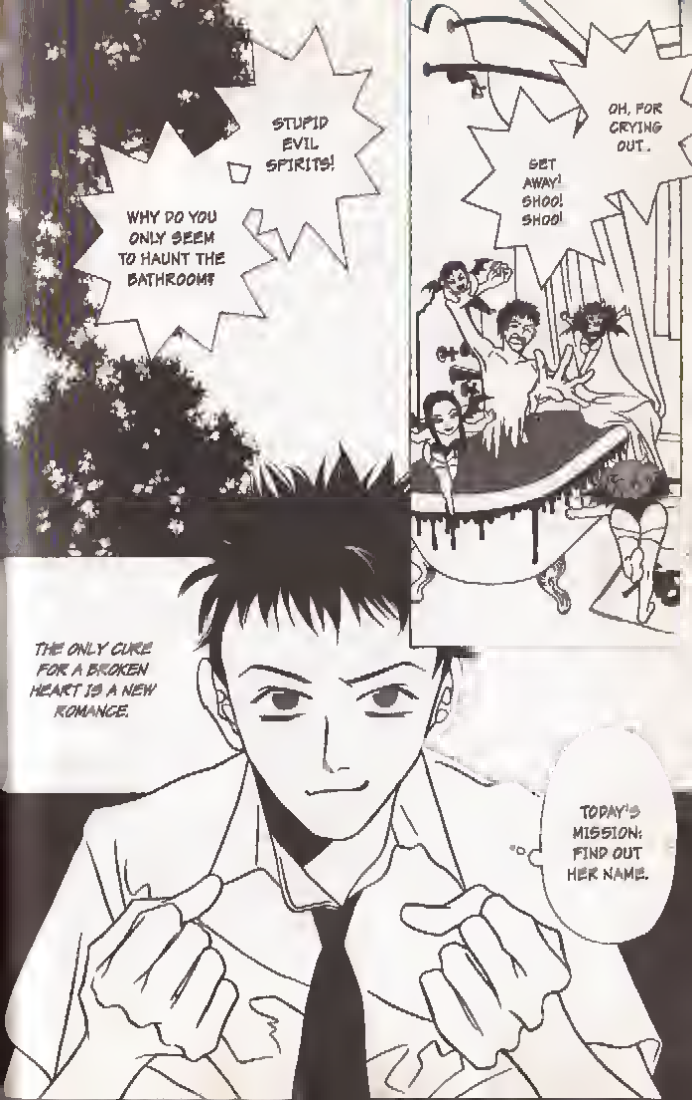
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
THE ONLY CELEBRATION THEY CARE ABOUT IS HALLOWEEN.
Yeah,!
I WANTED TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ONE YEAR..
...SO I BOUGHT A CAKE WITH MY TINY ALLOWANCE, AND THEY ABSOLUTELY RUINED IT FOR ME!
I MEAN, COME ON! WHAT KIND OF PARENT WOULD NAME THEIR CHILD SABATO, ANYWAY?
I DON'T THINK YOUR PARENTS ARE THE REASON YOU'RE ALWAYS PUMPED
HEY NOW...
Oh, it's like Hellfire
But- but- but...! My Santa!
He he he! How beautiful!
THEY TORCHED THE SUGAR SANTA THAT WAS ON TOP OF THE CAKE.
THEY'RE MONSTERS!

HELLO?
I THINK MY HEART JUST SKIPPED A BEAT!
COULD SHE BE THE ANGEL WHO'LL SAVE ME FROM THIS NIGHTMARE?
You deserve to be dumped just for saying something that lame.

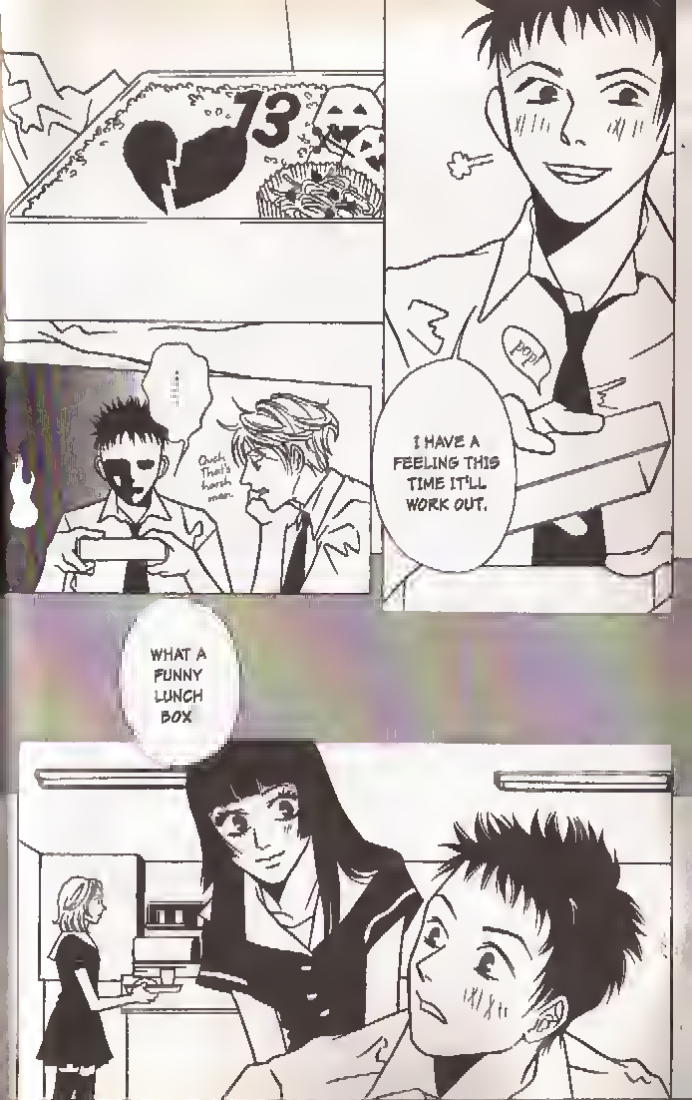

SHOULD WE TOAST TO SABATO'S HEART-BREAK!
WELCOME HOME, SABATO WE'RE HAVING A FEAST TONIGHT
TO HIS HEARTBREAK!
SHIT... SAY WHAT-EVER YOU'D LIKE.
SUCH A SHAME, SABATO. SHE WAS QUITE A CUTE GIRL.

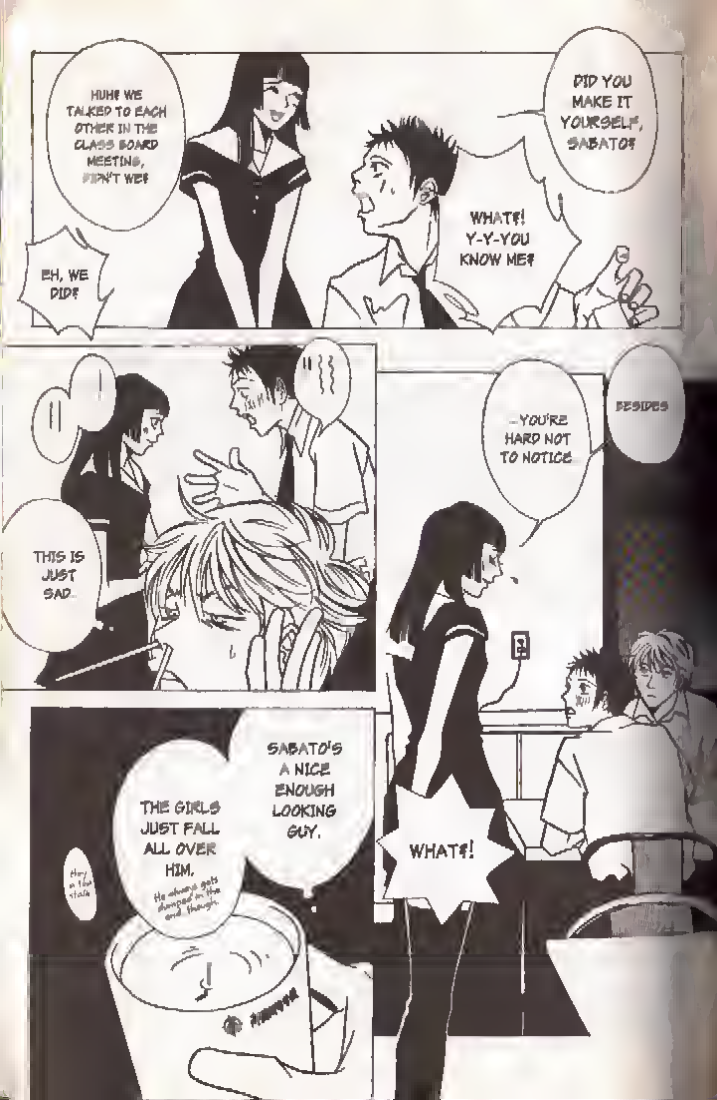

SO IF YOU HAVE TO GET DUMPED THIRTEEN TIMES, AT LEAST YOU'LL GET SOME LUCK OUT OF IT
NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE GET DUMPED THIRTEEN TIMES, BABATO!
Thirteen's a lucky number for our family.
I SEE. YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED THIRTEEN TIMES?!
NO, IT'S THE THIRTEENTH TIME, PAPA!
THIS IS THE TWELFTH TIME YOU'VE BEEN DUMPED, RIGHT?
.....
LEAVE ME ALONE!
Hey he's crying.
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS?!

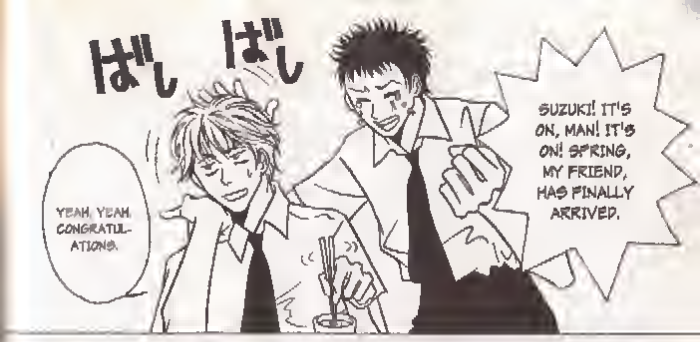

MAN, DID SHE HAVE TO BE SO CUTE!
AS SOON AS I BRING A GIRL HOME, SHE FREAKS OUT AND BREAKS UP WITH ME.
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME.
WHY IS OUR BATH-WATER RED?
HUH?!


STUPID EVIL SPIRITS!
WHY DO YOU ONLY SEEM TO HAUNT THE BATHROOMS
OH, FOR CRYING OUT.
GET AWAY! SHOO! SHOO!
THE ONLY CURE FOR A BROKEN HEART IS A NEW ROMANCE.
TODAY'S MISSION: FIND OUT HER NAME.

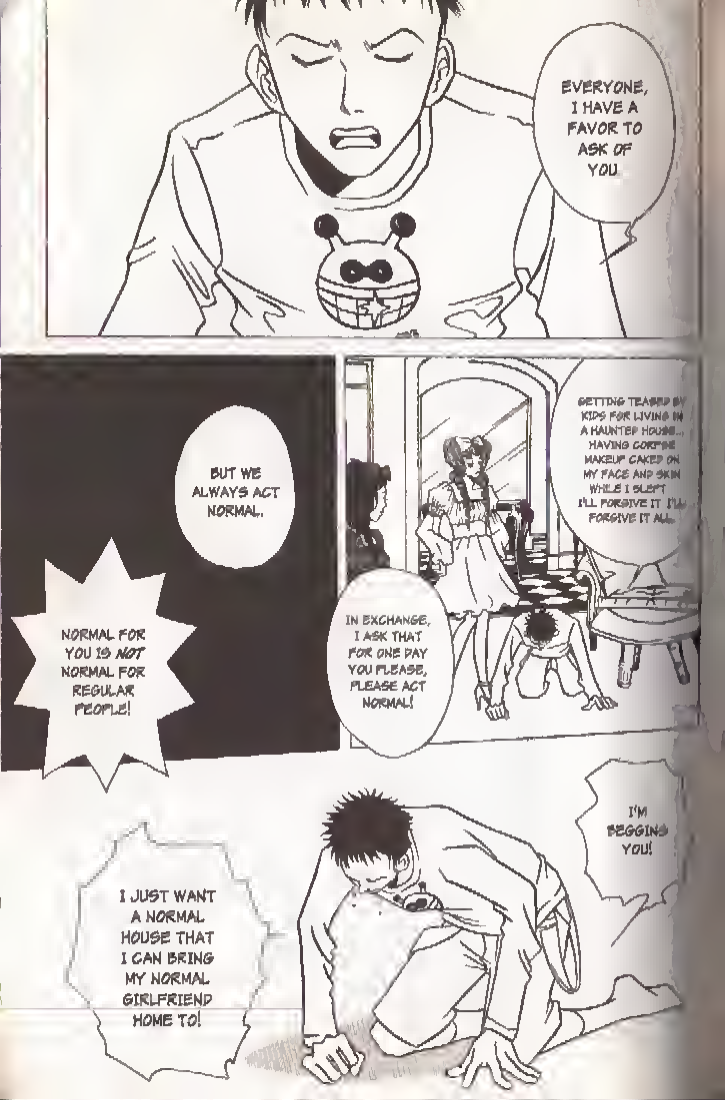
YOU CAN DO IT, SABATO! HAVE A LITTLE FAITH IN YOURSELF!
ばん
HERE I GO!
SUKEKIYO, DON'T CROSS MY PATH!
UNTIL I SEE A TEA STALK FLOATING UP!
..HOW MANY CUPS OF TEA ARE YOU GONNA DRINK?
SWARF!
I have to get back my good luck!
NOTE: It's believed to be a sign of good luck when a tea stalk floats standing up
SO.


73
Ouch. That's harsh man.
I HAVE A FEELING THIS TIME IT'LL WORK OUT.
WHAT A FUNNY LUNCH BOX


HUH? WE TALKED TO EACH OTHER IN THE CLASS BOARD MEETING, DIDN'T WE?
EH, WE DID?
WHAT?! Y-Y-YOU KNOW ME?
DID YOU MAKE IT YOURSELF, SABATO?
THIS IS JUST SAD...
...YOU'RE HARD NOT TO NOTICE.
BESIDES
WHAT?!
SABATO'S A NICE ENOUGH LOOKING GUY.
THE GIRLS JUST FALL ALL OVER HIM.
He always gets dumped on the end though.
Hm?, in the stalls

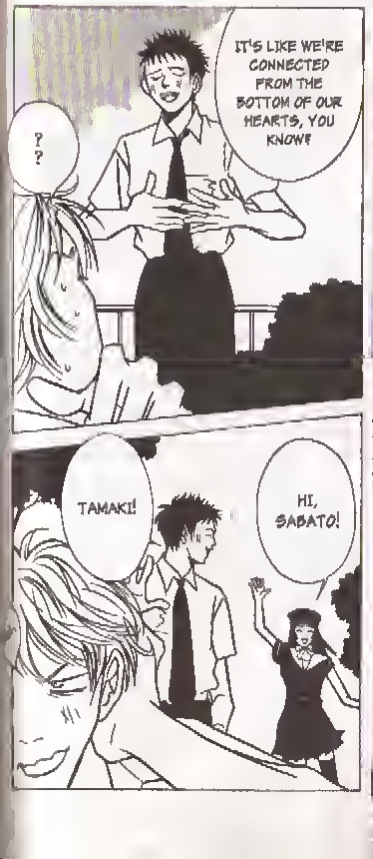


THINGS ALWAYS GO SMOOTHLY AT FIRST.


EVERYONE, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.
BUT WE ALWAYS ACT NORMAL.
NORMAL FOR YOU IS NOT NORMAL FOR REGULAR PEOPLE!
GETTING TEASED BY KIDS FOR LIVING IN A HAUNTED HOUSE... HAVING CORPSE MAKEUP CAKED ON MY FACE AND SKIN WHILE I SLEPT I'LL FORGIVE IT. I'LL FORGIVE IT ALL.
IN EXCHANGE, I ASK THAT FOR ONE DAY YOU PLEASE, PLEASE ACT NORMAL!
I'M BEGGING YOU!
I JUST WANT A NORMAL HOUSE THAT I CAN BRING MY NORMAL GIRLFRIEND HOME TO!

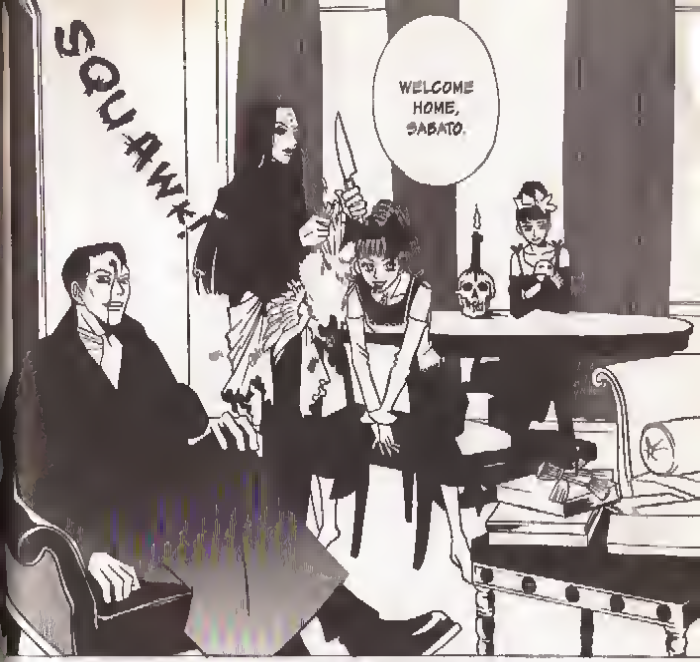
YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING A LOT, HAVEN'T YOU?
.....
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
STOP IT, LISA, MISA
EVERYONE, LET'S DO WHAT SABATO HAS ASKED.

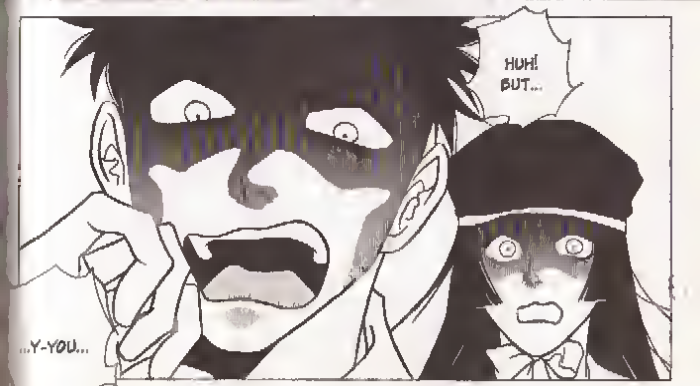
DAD...
IS THERE A PARENT WHO DOESN'T WISH FOR HIS CHILD'S HAPPINESS?
THANK YOU, DAD.

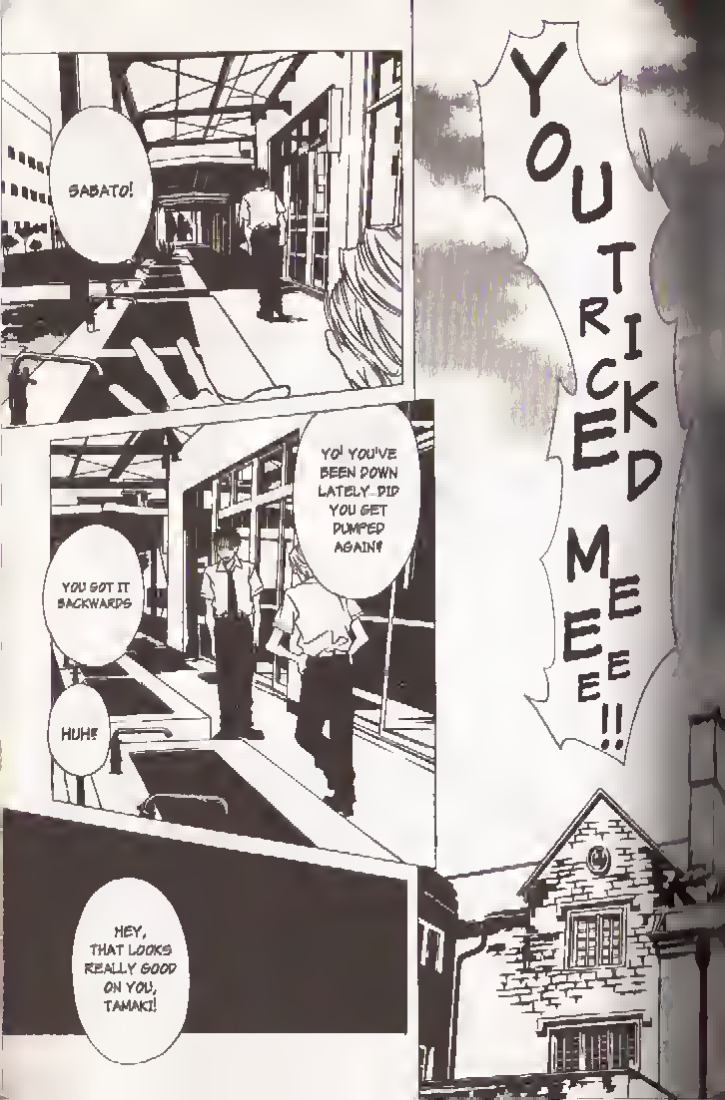

IT'S LIKE WE'RE CONNECTED FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, YOU KNOW!
?
?
TAMAKI!
HI, SABATO!
Hi

YOU KNOW, SUZUKI... FAMILY'S GREAT, ISN'T IT?

AH! TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT!
THEY'RE PRETTY ORDINARY
WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY LIKE, SADATO?
I NEVER THOUGHT A DAY LIKE THIS WOULD EVER COME.
OOO!
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE'S FAMILY, I SUPPOSE.
?
IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE.
I'M HOME!

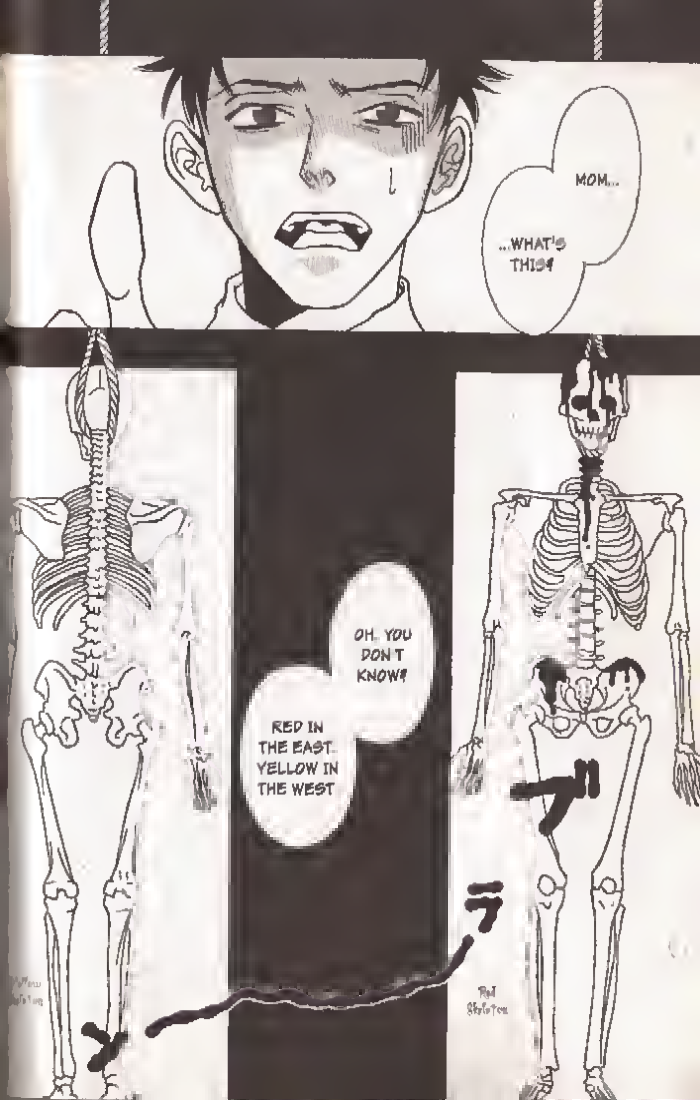

SQUAWK!
WELCOME HOME, SABATO.

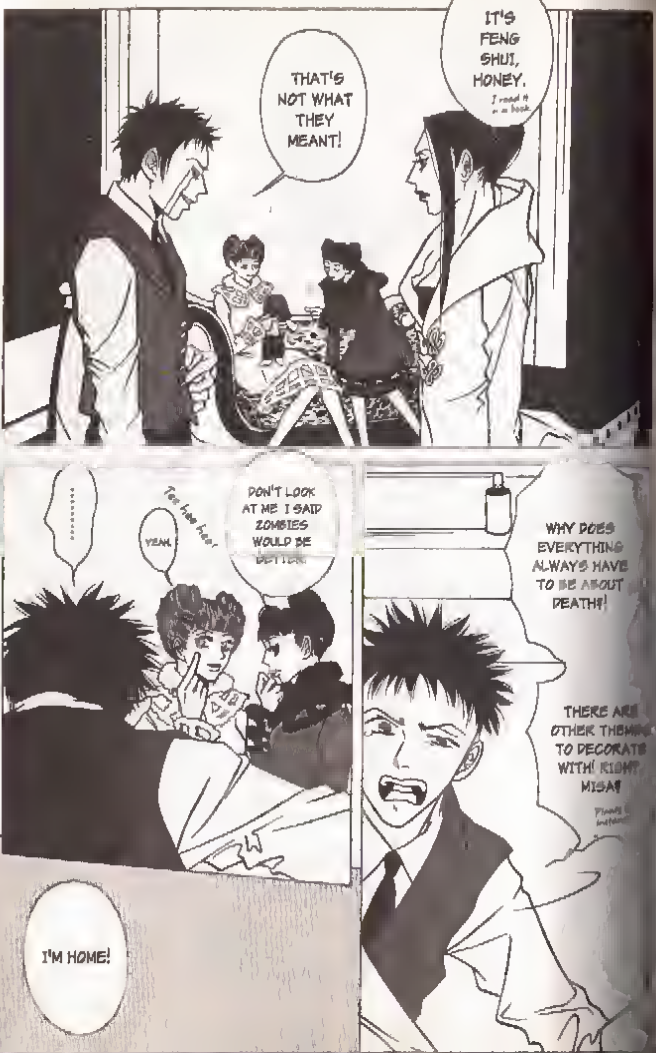

HUH! BUT...
...Y-YOU...


SABATO!
YO! YOU'VE BEEN DOWN LATELY--DID YOU GET PUMPED AGAIN?
YOU GOT IT BACKWARDS
HUH?
HEY, THAT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU, TAMAKI!
YOU TRICKD MEEEEEE!!

YOU REALLY THINK SO?
NICE GIRL, SABATO! LIKE A CHIP OFF THE OL' BLOCK!
SOMEONE! ANYONE! PLEASE RESCUE ME.
HA HA HA! NOT SO LOUD, SON.
THIS IS NOT WHAT I WANTED!
RESCUE ME FROM THIS LIVING HELL.

2


MOM...
..WHAT'S THIS?
OH. YOU DON'T KNOW?
RED IN THE EAST. YELLOW IN THE WEST
ブラ

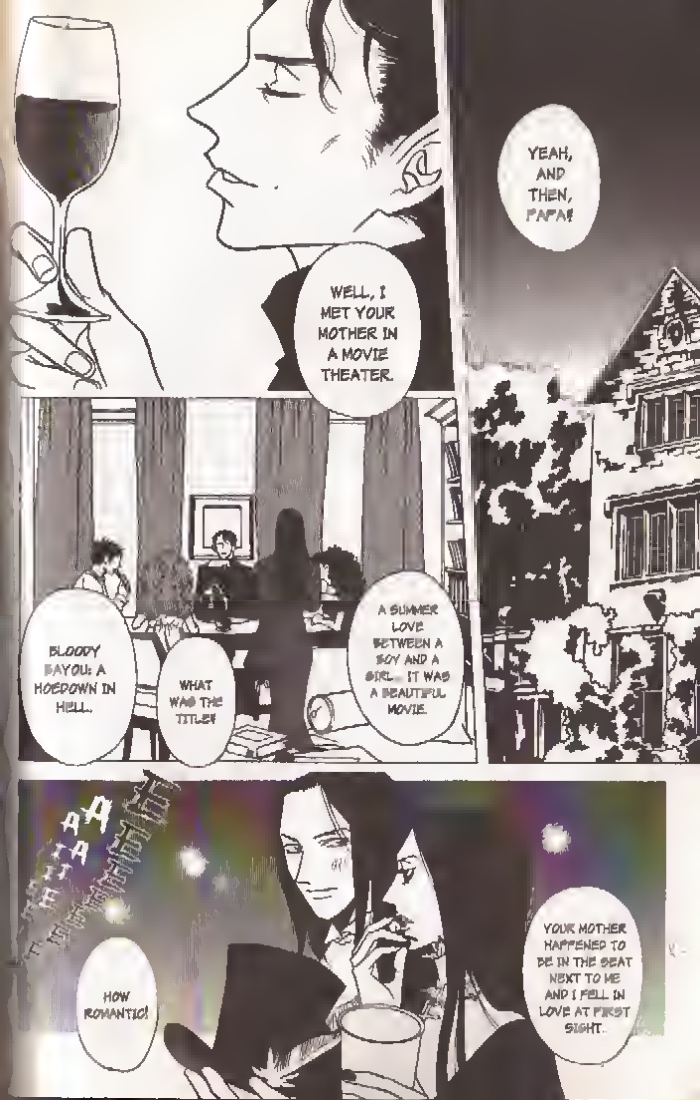

IT'S FENG SHUI, HONEY.
I read it in a book.
THAT'S NOT WHAT THEY MEANT!
WHY DOES EVERYTHING ALWAYS HAVE TO BE ABOUT DEATH!
THERE ARE OTHER THEMES TO DECORATE WITH! RIGHT, MISA!
Misa's instinct
DON'T LOOK AT ME. I SAID ZOMBIES WOULD BE BETTER.
You have hair.
YEAH.
.....
I'M HOME!

OH, SABATO... IF YOU WANT A PAIR OF SKELETONS FOR YOUR ROOM, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK
GRRR.
That's not what I meant!
DAD, TELL HER THEY DON'T BELONG OUT HERE!
Sea?
AH, I SEE WE HAVE A NEW SKELETON.
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A MORGUE ANYMORE!!
AH IT'S JUST NOT HOME UNLESS I HEAR SABATO FREAKING OUT AT LEAST ONCE A DAY
Hee!

KYOKO!
HEY!
KYO...
...
YO, SABATO HOW'S THE ADDAMS FAMILY DOING?

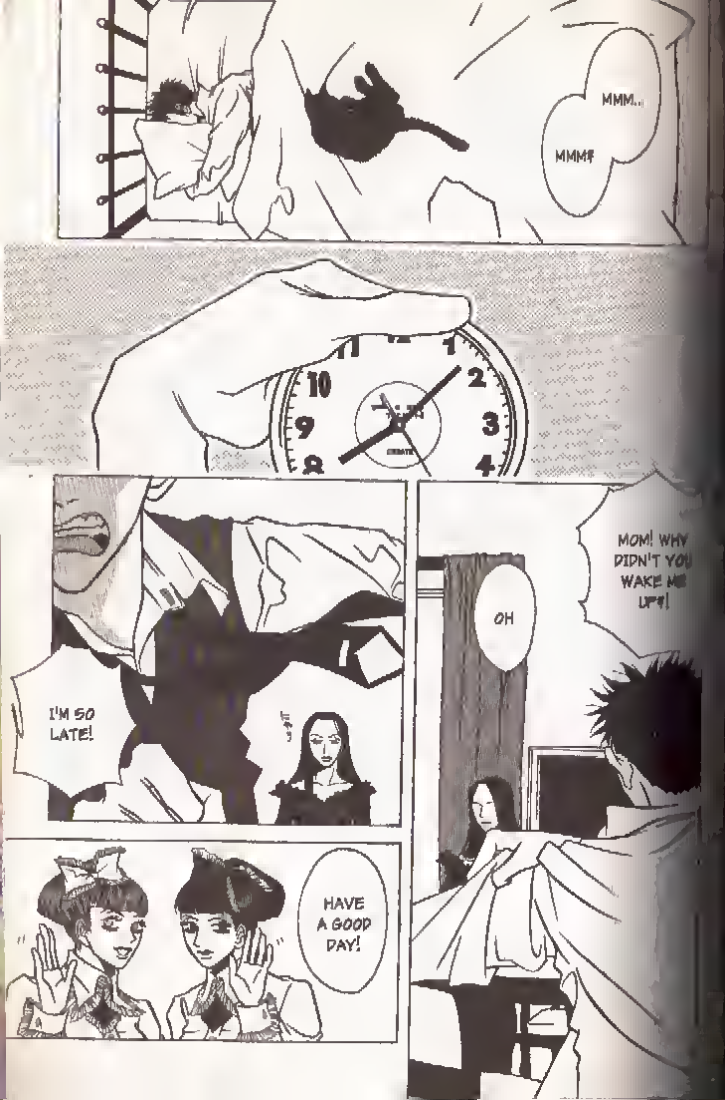
ONE MONTH! THAT'S A RECORD FOR ME!
DID YOU GET DUMPED AGAIN?
Heh!
IF ONLY I HADN'T TAKEN HER TO MY HOUSE.
WONDERFUL. THEY DON'T DIE NO MATTER HOW HUGH I TRY KILLING THEM.
WHY DO GIRLS WANNA SEE THEIR BOYFRIENDS' HOUSES ANYWAY?
DUNNO.
SABATO! SUZUKI!

Huh.
EATING ON THE ROOF IS AGAINST SCHOOL REGULATION!
Tsuyoshi
SORRY.
I HEAR THAT SHE TAKES A RULER WITH HER TO THE BATHROOM BECAUSE THE SCHOOL RULE SAYS NOT TO USE MORE THAN 30 CENTIMETERS OF TOILET PAPER.
THAT HAS GOT TO BE MADE UP.
JEEZ, THAT CHICK. IT'S LIKE SHE WAS BORN TO BE CLASS PRESIDENT.
I CAN'T STAND GIRLS LIKE THAT. THEY REMIND ME OF MY SISTERS.


WELL, I MET YOUR MOTHER IN A MOVIE THEATER.
YEAH, AND THEN, PAPA!
A SUMMER LOVE BETWEEN A BOY AND A GIRL... IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL MOVIE.
WHAT WAS THE TITLE?
BLOODY BAYOU: A HOEDOWN IN HELL.
YOUR MOTHER HAPPENED TO BE IN THE SEAT NEXT TO ME AND I FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.
HOW ROMANTIC!

...THE FRUIT OF OUR LOVE
SOUNDS LOVELY.
YOU KIDS ARE...
GAH! I DIDN'T NEED TO HEAR THAT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE LET THESE GUYS GET THE BETTER OF ME.
WELL, NO MORE! THAT ENDS NOW!
POP!

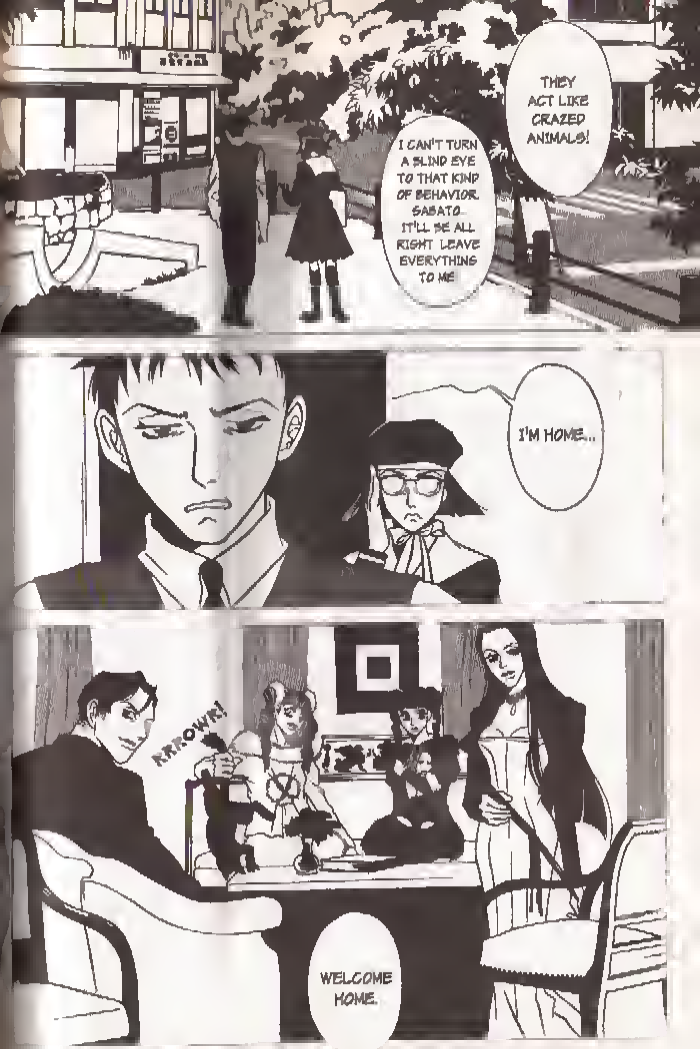

MMM..
MMM?
MOM! WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP?!
OH
I'M SO LATE!
HAVE A GOOD DAY!

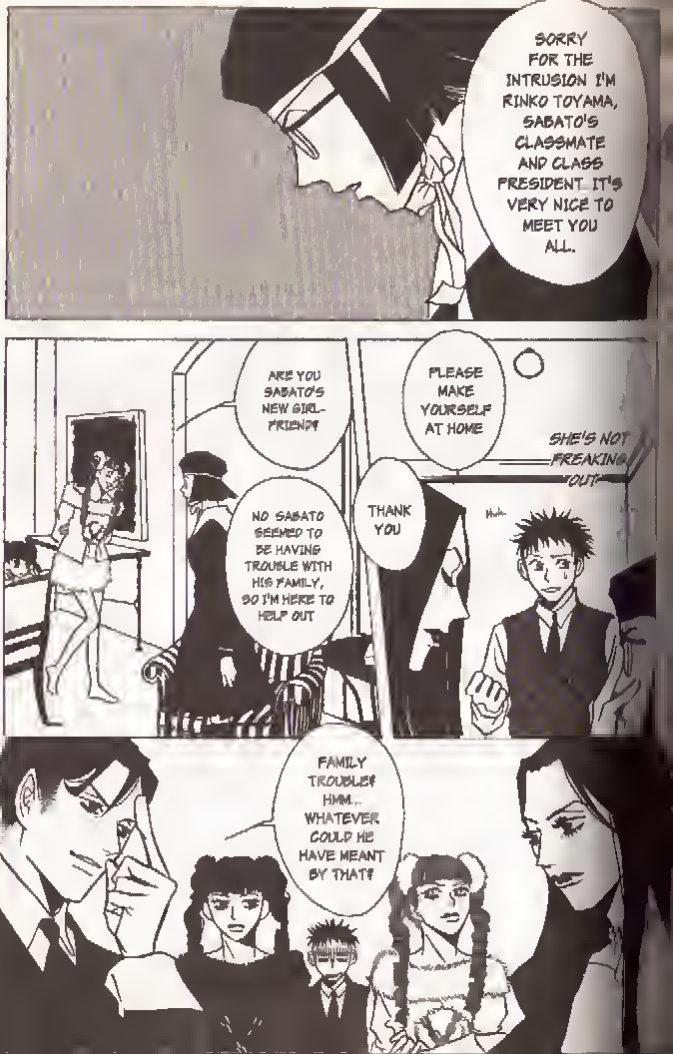
ガラ
SORRY, I'M LATE!
...?!
.....
SADATO'S YOUR, UH.. FACE.

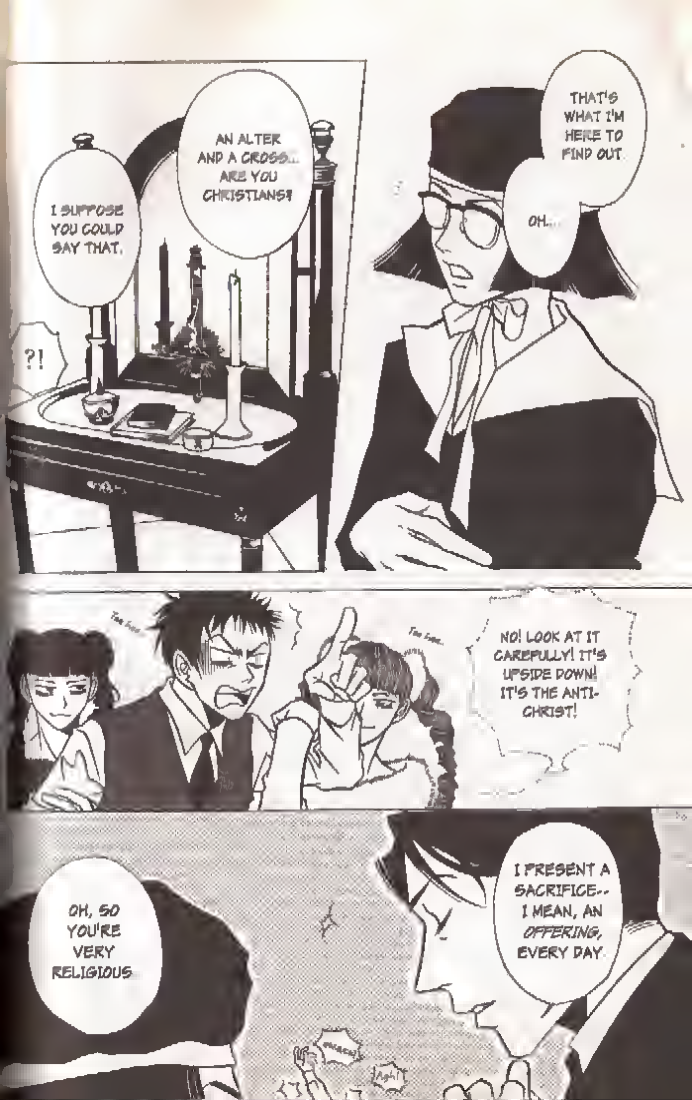
DEAD MAN WALKING
HUH?
SUZUKI, I DON'T HAVE TO FORGIVE THEM, DO I?
UM...
YEAH.

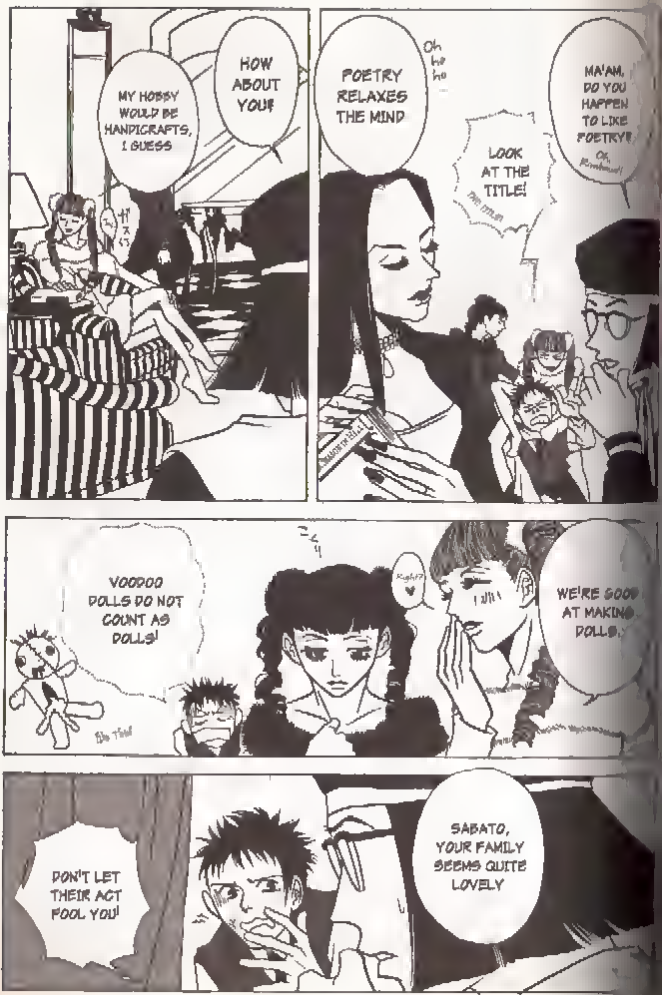
YOU GUYS ARE BREAKING THE RULES AGAIN...
"THE FRUIT OF THEIR LOVE"?! THAT'S BULLSHIT! DAMMIT! WHAT DO THEY THINK I AM?!
AAAAAGH!!!
?!
WHY DOES EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY TAKE JOY IN MY PAIN?!
In my class? No way!
WHAT? COULD IT BE . DOMESTIC ABUSE?!

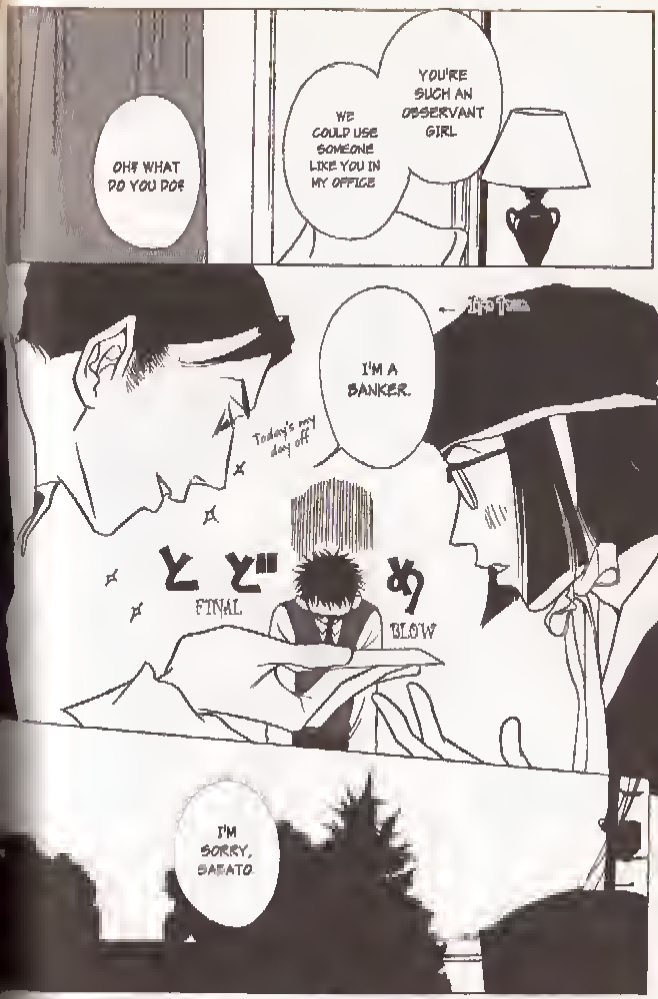
I'LL LISTEN, IF YOU'D LIKE.
.....
WELL.
...I WANT TO REHABILITATE MY FAMILY
WAIT A SEC
RINKO COU
PUT THE FEA
OF GOD IN
ABOUT ANY
Nuo!
Eee


THEY ACT LIKE CRAZED ANIMALS!
I CAN'T TURN A BLIND EYE TO THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR, SABATO. IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME.
I'M HOME...
K.R.R.OWR!
WELCOME HOME.


SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION I'M RINKO TOYAMA, SABATO'S CLASSMATE AND CLASS PRESIDENT. IT'S VERY NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.
ARE YOU SABATO'S NEW GIRL-FRIEND?
NO SABATO SEEMED TO BE HAVING TROUBLE WITH HIS FAMILY, SO I'M HERE TO HELP OUT
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME
THANK YOU
SHE'S NOT FREAKING YOU!
FAMILY TROUBLE? HMM... WHATEVER COULD HE HAVE MEANT BY THAT?

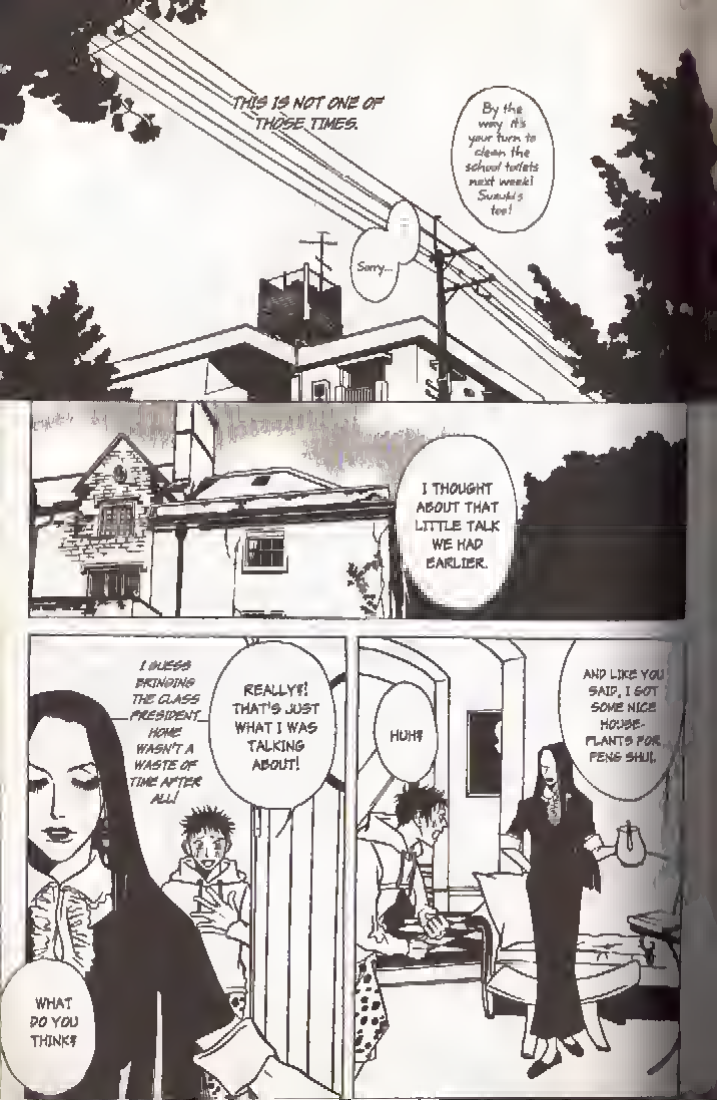

AN ALTER AND A CROSS... ARE YOU CHRISTIANS?
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY THAT.
?!
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO FIND OUT.
OH...
NO! LOOK AT IT CAREFULLY! IT'S UPSIDE DOWN! IT'S THE ANTI-CHRIST!
OH, SO YOU'RE VERY RELIGIOUS
I PRESENT A SACRIFICE-- I MEAN, AN OFFERING, EVERY DAY.
SNAP!
Right?

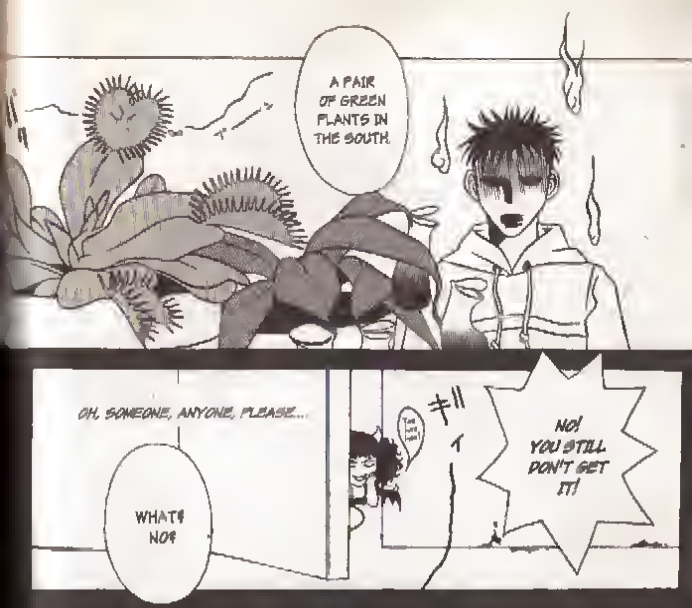

MY HOBBY WOULD BE HANDICRAFTS, I GUESS
HOW ABOUT YOU?
POETRY RELAXES THE MIND
Oh ho ho
LOOK AT THE TITLE!
MA'AM, DO YOU HAPPEN TO LIKE POETRY?
Oh, Rimbaud!
VOODOO DOLLS DO NOT COUNT AS DOLLS!
Right?
WE'RE GOOD AT MAKING DOLLS.
DON'T LET THEIR ACT FOOL YOU!
SABATO, YOUR FAMILY SEEMS QUITE LOVELY


OH? WHAT DO YOU DO?
WE COULD USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU IN MY OFFICE
YOU'RE SUCH AN OBSERVANT GIRL
I'M A BANKER.
Today's my day off
FINAL
BLOW
I'M SORRY, SABATO

I THINK YOU JUST HAVE TROUBLE RELATING TO YOUR FAMILY DON'T YOU?
YEAH, SURE.
I MEAN, SHE WASN'T BOTHERED BY MY FAMILY AT ALL.
MAYBE IF SHE WAS MY GIRLFRIEND THINGS COULD WORK OUT FOR A CHANGE!
AND A LOT OF TIMES A GIRL TAKES OFF GLASSES

. WE FIND THEY WERE
OH!
HEY!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
HELP ME FIND MY GLASSES!

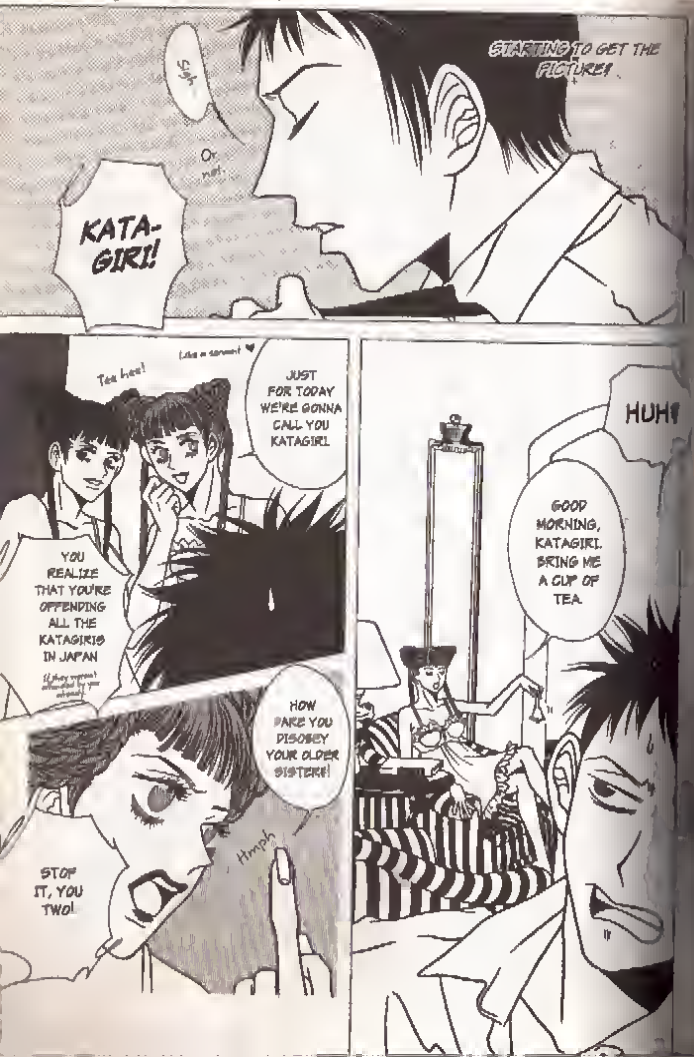

THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TIMES.
By the way, it's your turn to clean the school toilets next week! Suzuki's too!
Sorry...
I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT LITTLE TALK WE HAD EARLIER.
I GUESS BRINGING THE CLASS PRESIDENT HOME WASN'T A WASTE OF TIME AFTER ALL!
REALLY?! THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HUH?
AND LIKE YOU SAID, I GOT SOME NICE HOUSE-PLANTS FOR FENG SHUI.


A PAIR OF GREEN PLANTS IN THE SOUTH.
OH, SOMEONE, ANYONE, PLEASE...
WHAT? NO?
NO! YOU STILL DON'T GET IT!
SOMEONE PLEASE END THIS NIGHTMARISH TORTURE!

3

MY FAMILY IS STRANGE. REALLY STRANGE.
YEAH, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. EVERYONE'S FAMILY IS STRANGE. HOW IS MINE ANY DIFFERENT?
LET'S JUST SAY THAT THEY'RE INTO BLACK, NOT WHITE. HORROR FILMS, NOT COMEDIES.
FOR HIGH SCHOOL BOOK REPORTS, THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO WRITE ABOUT DRACULA, NOT PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.

NOTE: Katagiri is a common surname in Japan.


Ugh
Or not
KATA-GIRI!
STARTING TO GET THE PICTURE!
HUH?
GOOD MORNING, KATAGIRI. BRING ME A CUP OF TEA.
Like a servant!
Tee hee!
JUST FOR TODAY WE'RE GONNA CALL YOU KATAGIRI.
YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE OFFENDING ALL THE KATAGIRIS IN JAPAN
(They weren't offended by me already.)
HOW DARE YOU DISOBEY YOUR OLDER SISTER!
Hmph
STOP IT, YOU TWO!

DAD!
DON'T CALL HIM KATAGIRI.
I CAN'T LIVE IN A HOME LIKE THIS!!!
HA HA HA! THAT'S THE SPIRIT, SABATO!
IGOR...
Too bad.
pat
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT
KATAGIRI SOUNDS MORE LIKE A SECRETARY DON'T YOU THINK IGOR IS BETTER?
He WAS a servant after all
I... I...

YOU LOOK LIKE HELL

NO!
DUMPED AGAIN, I ASSUME?

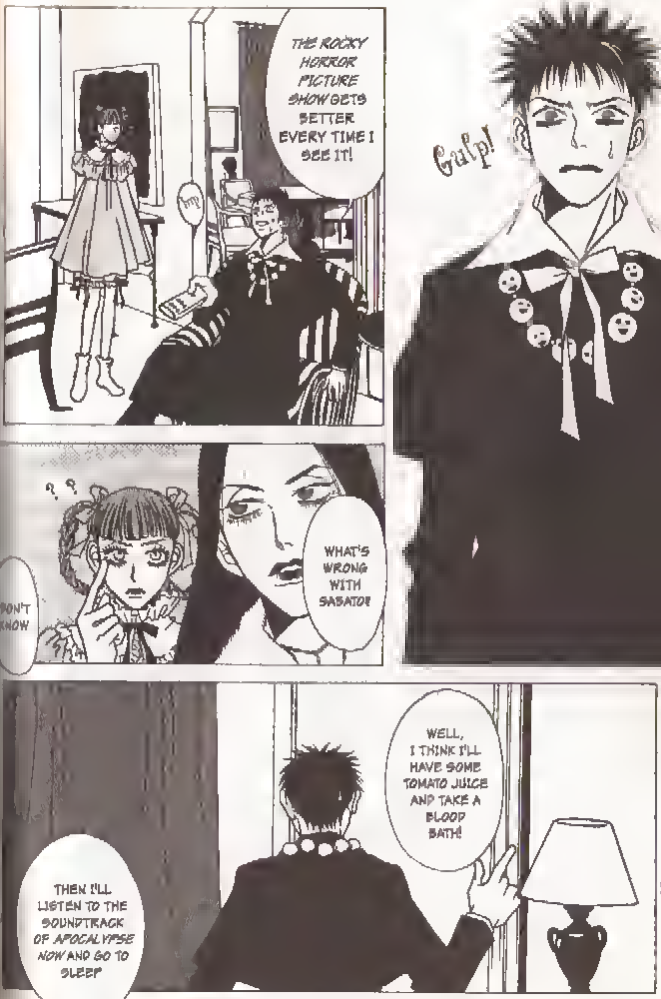
...AND A FATHER WHO TAKES ME TO BASEBALL GAMES!
I WANT A MOTHER WHO COOKS DINNER IN THE EVENINGS
THE ONLY THING MY MOM KNOWS HOW TO COOK IS THE HOUSEHOLD CAT AND THE ONLY GAME MY DAD'S INTO IS RUSSIAN ROULETTE!
I'M SICK OF IT!

I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH MY DAMN FAMILY ANYMORE!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO KEEP THAT IN MIND AND JUST TRY TO BLEND IN, Y'KNOW?!
WHY CAN'T THEY JUST BE AN ORDINARY FAMILY?!
YEAH, THEY'RE SCARY ALL RIGHT. BUT THE SCARIEST THING IS...
...THAT THEY OUTNUMBER YOU FOUR TO ONE

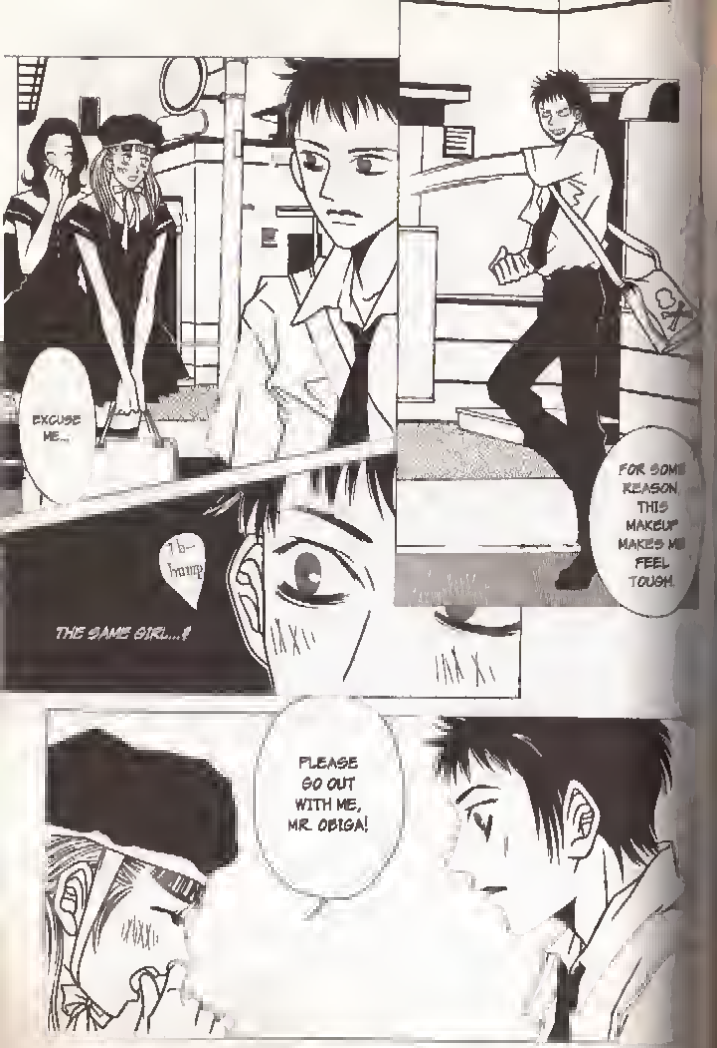
BLEND IN!

WHEN IN ROME, DO AS THE ROMANS DO, RIGHT?
ALL THIS TIME I'VE BEEN THINKING OF WAYS TO GET THEM TO CHANGE, BUT
I GUESS THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SURVIVE IN THIS FAMILY...
.....


THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW GETS BETTER EVERY TIME I SEE IT!
Gulp!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SABATOR
DON'T KNOW
WELL, I THINK I'LL HAVE SOME TOMATO JUICE AND TAKE A BLOOD BATH!
THEN I'LL LISTEN TO THE SOUNDTRACK OF APOCALYPSE NOW AND GO TO SLEEP

YES, IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE CONFUSED! GOOD!
DO YOU REALLY NEED THE GOTH MAKEUP?
GET USED TO IT. THIS IS MY LONG, HARD ROAD OUT OF HELL.
?

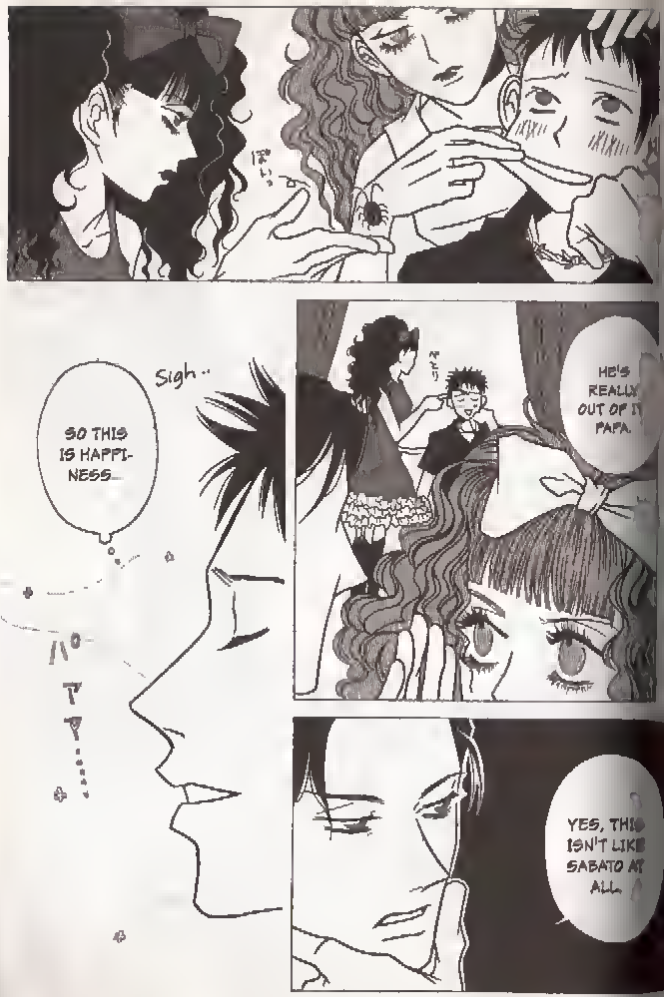
KYAAH!
?
バタバタ
.....
HUH? I THINK YOU WERE BEING SPIED ON BY FIRST YEARS
THEY COULDN'T BE...


EXCUSE ME...
Th-hump
THE SAME GIRL...!
FOR SOME REASON, THIS MAKEUP MAKES ME FEEL TOUGH.
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME, MR. OBIGA!

IS THIS MAKEUP ACTUALLY BRINGING ME GOOD LUCK?!

WE'RE GOING TO A CONCERT! IT'S THE PERFECT PURE DATE!
うどん ¥200
OH, YEAH!
Ha ha ha!
AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR SUGGESTION. THANK YOU, MY FRIEND.
I MEAN, IF SHE LIKES ME DESPITE ALL THIS DEMON MAKEUP...
..THEN SHE MUST BE PRETTY BIG-HEARTED AND NOT JUDGE PEOPLE BY THEIR APPEARANCES
I THINK SHE'LL ACTUALLY GET ALONG WITH MY FAMILY
Pure ?

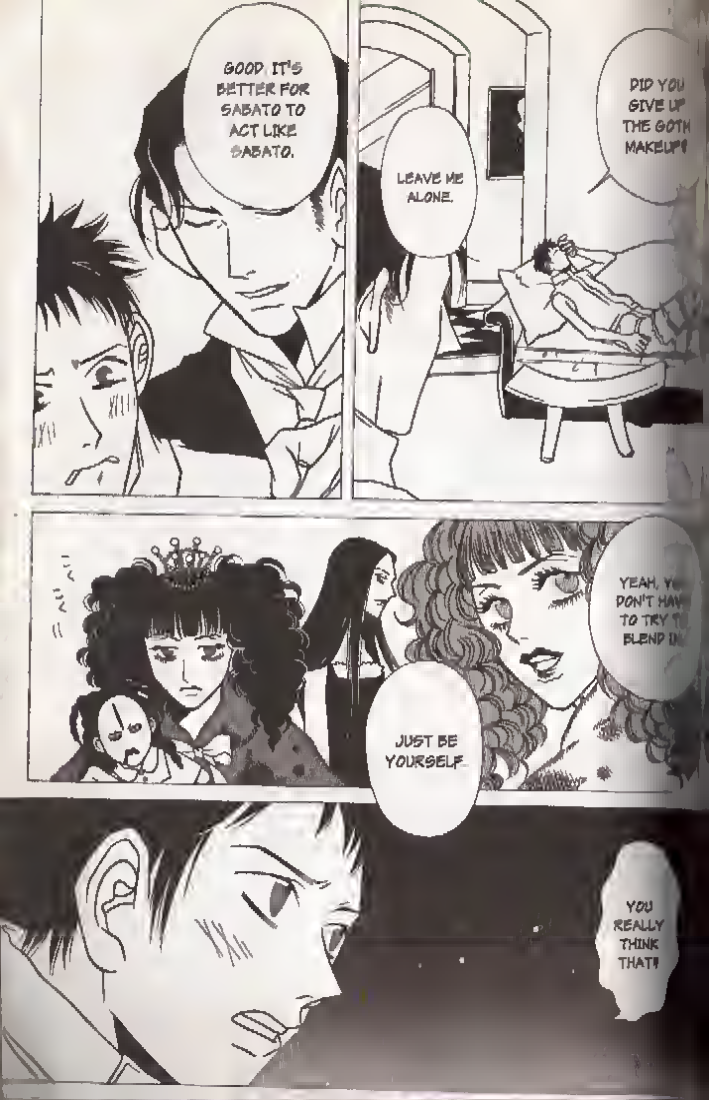
I THINK I LIKED THE ANGRY, CRANKY SABATO BETTER.


Sigh..
SO THIS IS HAPPI-NESS...
HE'S REALLY OUT OF IT PAPA.
YES, THIS ISN'T LIKE SABATO AT ALL.

THIS NEW LOOK IS DOING WONDERS FOR ME.
Bored
I'M BLENDING IN WITH THE FAMILY AND I HAVE A DATE TOMORROW.

I WONDER WHAT SHE'LL BE WEARING. I BET IT'LL BE REALLY COOL.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, MR. OBIGA!
IT'S OKAY, I JUST GOT HERE MY--
SORRY TO BE LATE--I COULDN'T GET THE BLOOD TO LOOK RIGHT

I DON'T UNDERSTAND A WORD OF WHAT SHE JUST SAID, AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST.
YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE THIS BAND. THEY'RE CALLED HOMICIDE NEUROSIS
THEY ALL DRESS LIKE CORPSES AND KILL LIVE CHICKENS ON STAGE.
Tee hee!
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT.
You remind me a lot of the bass player!
I tried!
Aaah!
MR. OSIAH SABATO!
...OH!


GOOD. IT'S BETTER FOR SABATO TO ACT LIKE SABATO.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
DID YOU GIVE UP THE GOTH MAKEUP?
YEAH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY TO BLEND IN.
JUST BE YOURSELF.
YOU REALLY THINK THAT?

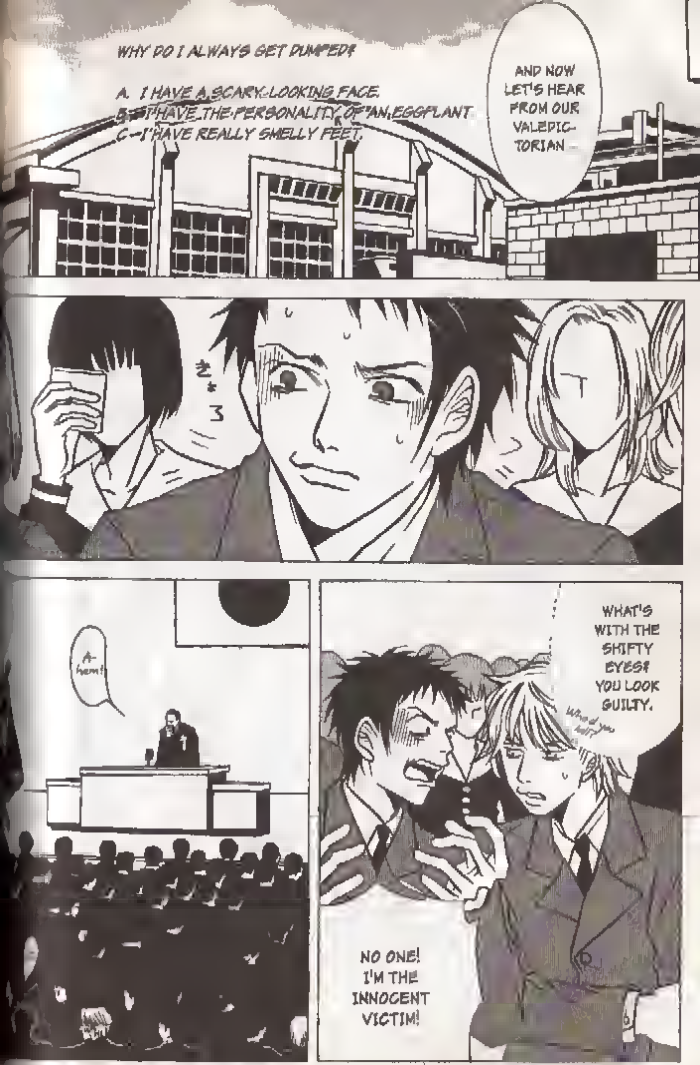
OF COURSE! IT WOULDN'T BE FUN TO TEASE YOU OTHERWISE. ♥

AND WITH THAT...

...THE DOOR TO HAVING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE WAS ONCE AGAIN SHUT.

SLAM!

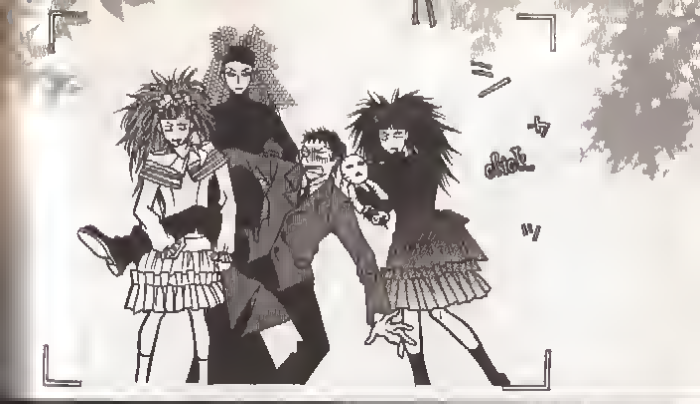
4


WHY DO I ALWAYS GET DUMPED?
A. I HAVE A SCARY-LOOKING FACE.
B. I HAVE THE PERSONALITY OF AN EGGPLANT.
C. I HAVE REALLY SMELLY FEET.
AND NOW LET'S HEAR FROM OUR VALEDICTORIAN--
ふぅ
3
A-hem!
WHAT'S WITH THE SHIFTY EYES? YOU LOOK GUILTY.
What'd you do?
NO ONE! I'M THE INNOCENT VICTIM!

I never realized how much Pomp and Circumstance sounds like the theme to The Omen.
CALM DOWN, SABATO. YOU DI
TELL THEM A
TODAY, THEY
KNOW! AND
WON'T SHOW
YOU FAILED ALL YOUR JOB INTER-VIEWS, DIDN'T YOU?
What are you going to do?
DON'T ASK.
SABATO! ♡
I JUST WANT
GRADUATION
CEREMONY TO BE
A GOOD MEMORY
SOMETHING I
CO BE
UM... CAN I HAVE YOUR...
BUTTON, PLEASE!

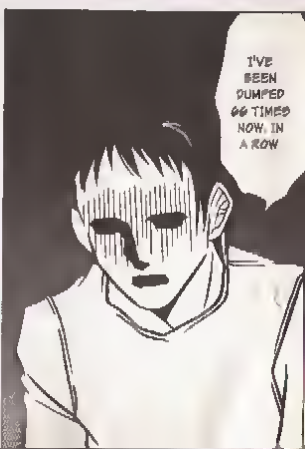
UM. EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE [illegible] SCHOOL, DO YOU THINK WE COULD STILL HANG OUT?
SABATO !!!
OH GOD! SHE'S CUTE! HAPOOIPOI! WHAPOOIPOI!
SORRY, WE'RE LATE.
WISHING YOU GANGR[illegible] ON YOUR GRADUATION!

TRUST ME, IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!
AH! WAIT! PLEASE!
SORRY WE'RE LATE. SOMEHOW THE INVITATION ACCIDENTALLY SLIPPED INTO THE TRASHCAN.
WHY? TODAY WHY TODAY?!!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO JINX EVERY-THING?!
OH? DUMPED AGAIN, WERE WE?
HE SAID THE CAMERA WAS CURSED AND THE FORMER OWNERS ALL HAD BAD LUCK.
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
LEMME GO! NOOOOO!
THIS IS AN ANTIQUE, SINGLE-LENS REFLEX CAMERA. THE DEALER GAVE ME A SPECIAL DEAL.



WHY DO I ALWAYS GET DUMPED? THE ANSWER IS...

D. MY FAMILY'S A FREAKFEST.

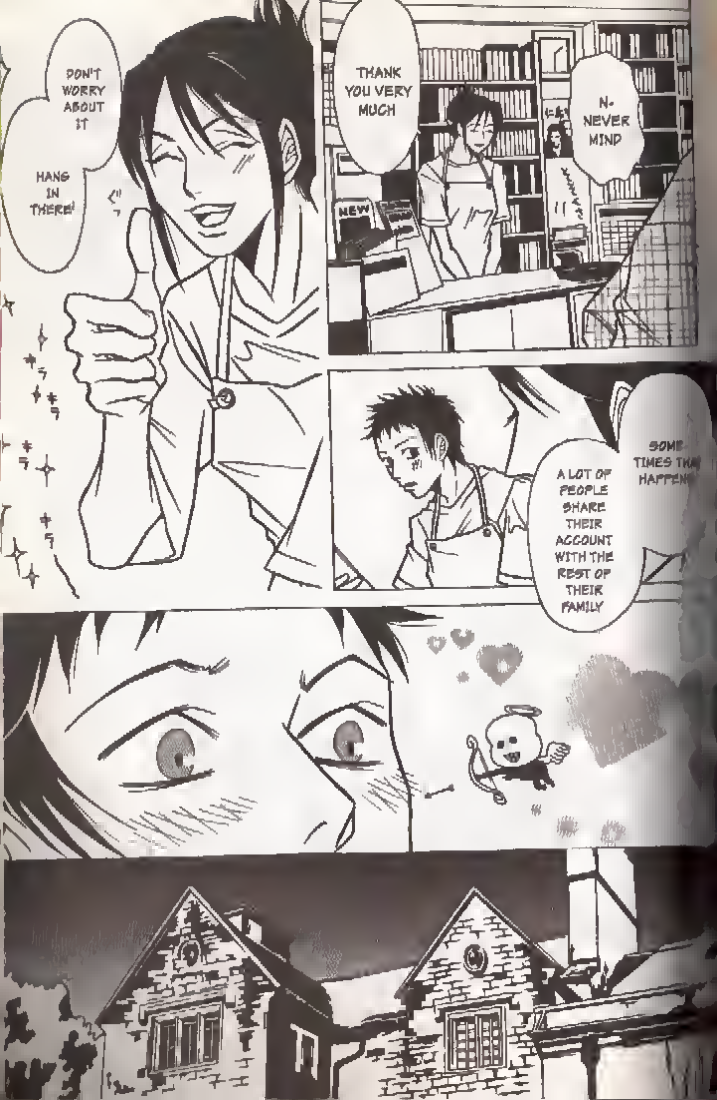


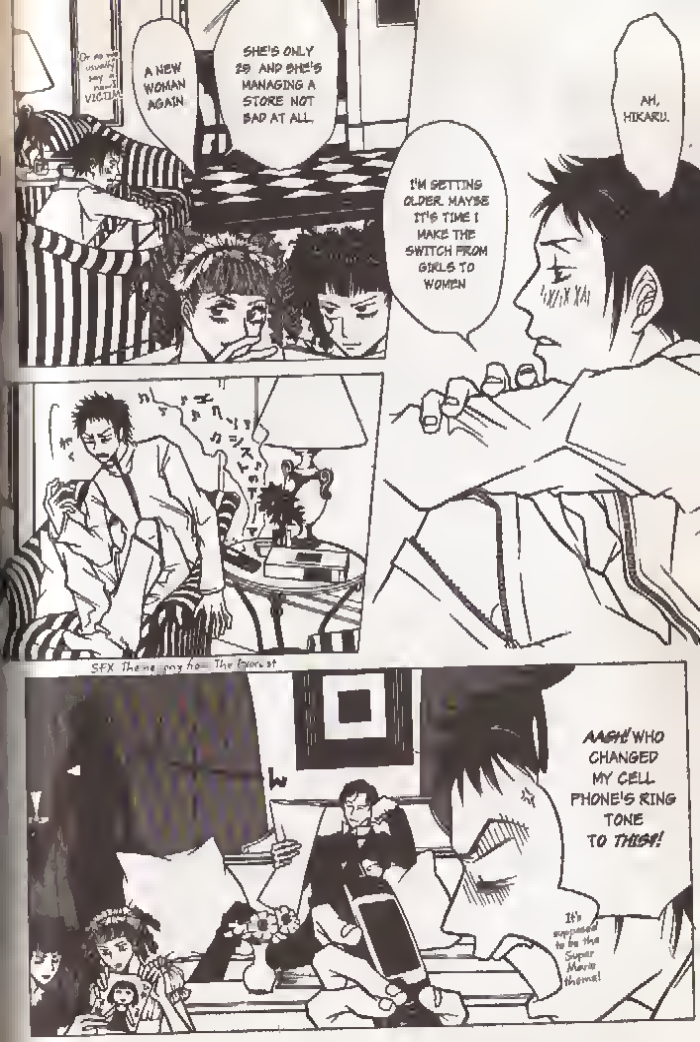
YOU'D HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PASS A JOB INTERVIEW TO DO THAT
WHAT? SABATO, YOU'LL NEVER END UP IN A CUBICLE!
THAT WAS MY LAST CHANCE TO GET A GIRLFRIEND
I'M GONNA SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WORKING IN A TINY CUBICLE SOMEWHERE... ALONE.
YOU AREN'T helping.
YOU SWAPPED THE PHOTO IN MY RESUME WITH ONE OF FREDDY KRUEGER AND...
...PUT A DAMN CENTIPEDE IN MY SUIT POCKET!
THOSE INTERVIEWS WERE YOUR FAULT, TOO!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ACT LIKE A NORMAL FAMILY FOR ONCE?!
WHO DOES THAT TO THEIR SON?!

IN THIS FAMILY, THAT IS NORMAL BEHAVIOR.
THIS HOUSE... THIS HOUSE...
DAMMIT!
I'LL SAVE UP AND MOVE OUT OF THIS HOUSE ONCE AND FOR ALL!!

Oh, the outside world is so refreshing
OH, OKAY!
I'M HIKARU HAYASHI. I'M THE MANAGER.
YOU'RE OUR NEW PART-TIMER, SABATO, RIGHT? ASK ME ANYTHING, OKAY?
THAT'S SUZUKI. HE'S A PART-TIMER LIKE YOU.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? Shouldn't you be at college?
WELL, I JUST GOT A GIRLFRIEND, AND
I NEED SOME MONEY, YOU KNOW?
Don't mean to sound like I'm bragging, but she looks like a model. Seriously man, she's cute as hell and a real sweetheart.

SOMETIMES MY FRIENDS ARE ALMOST AS BAD AS MY FAMILY.
GOOD AFTER-NOON...
HUH?
DVD
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NEW RELEASE
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU RENT ANY MORE UNTIL YOU RETURN THE ONES YOU HAVE NOW
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING WHAT ELSE DO YOU THINK I HAVE?
WHAT?! I JUST RETURNED THE OTHERS!
UMM... WELL, UH, YOU HAVE DANNI'S DIRTY DIARY AND SORORITY GIRLS IN SHIBUYA--A TOTAL OF TWO TAPES, MA'AM.


DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
HANG IN THERE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
N-NEVER MIND
NEW
A LOT OF PEOPLE SHARE THEIR ACCOUNT WITH THE REST OF THEIR FAMILY
SOME TIMES THAT HAPPENS

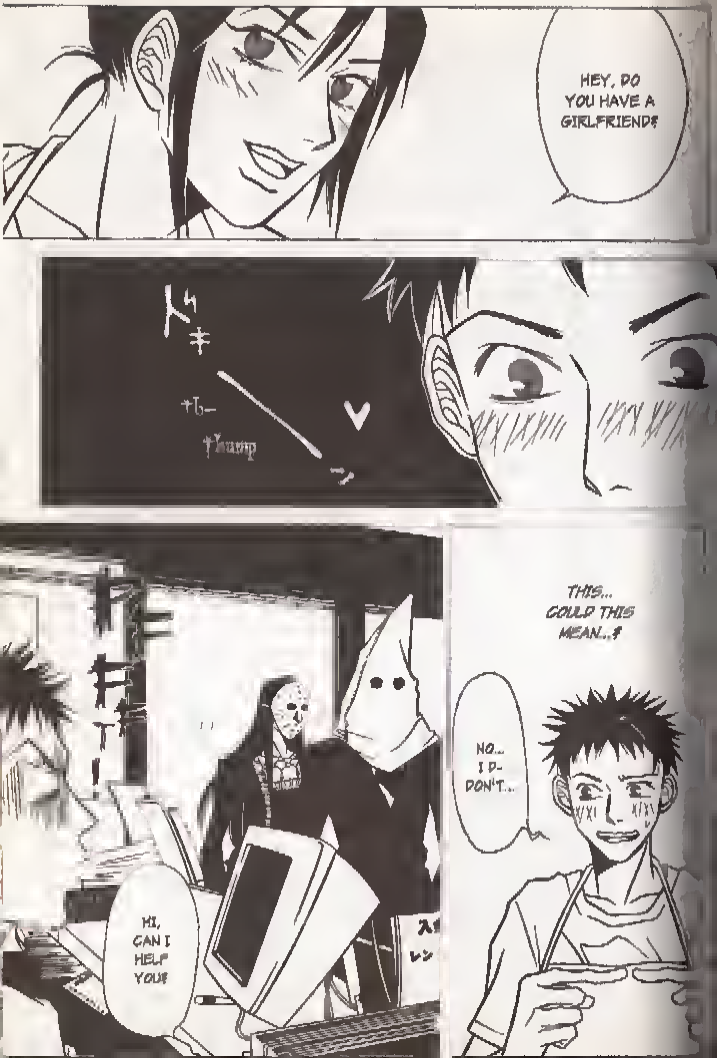

Or so he usually says to his next VICTIM
A NEW WOMAN AGAIN
SHE'S ONLY 25 AND SHE'S MANAGING A STORE NOT BAD AT ALL
I'M GETTING OLDER. MAYBE IT'S TIME I MAKE THE SWITCH FROM GIRLS TO WOMEN
AH, HIKARU.
SFX Theme song from The Exorcist
AAGH! WHO CHANGED MY CELL PHONE'S RING TONE TO THIS?!
It's supposed to be the Super Mario theme!

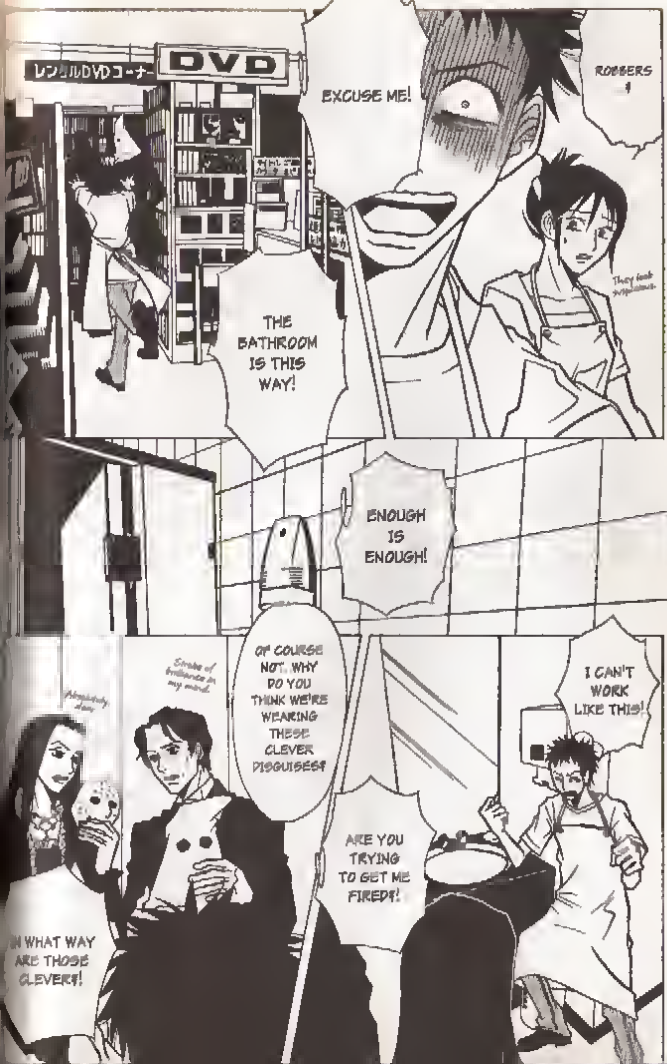
SUZUKI! WHAT'S UP?
YEAH! OH...
SURE, I'LL COVER YOUR SHIFT FOR YOU
BUT I WANT A FAVOR IN RETURN!
I WON'T LET MY FAMILY JINX ME THIS TIME!
MROW
SUKEKIYO, YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, AREN'T YOU?
IT'S
...

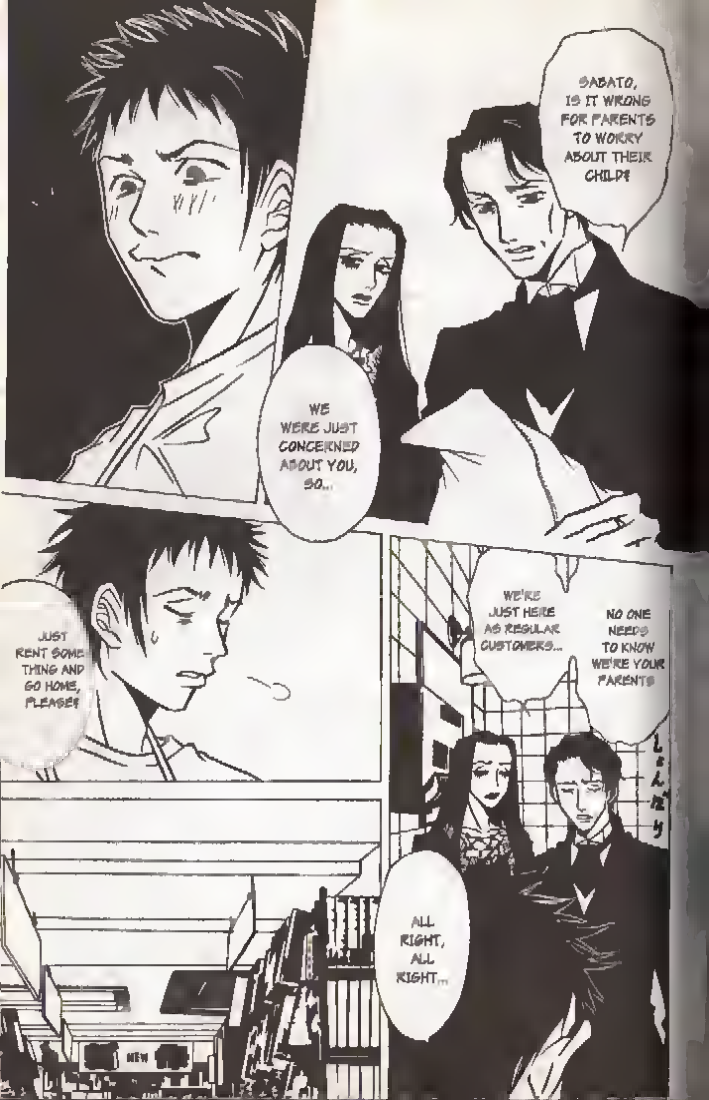
WHY DON'T YOU HANDLE THOSE RETURNED VIDEOS BY YOURSELF...
...OI, BUDDY, OI, FALK
YEAH, YEAH, BUT YOU WORK THIS SUNDAY FOR ME, GOT IT?
I HAVE A DATE.
WHAT KIND OF M-MOVIES DO YOU LIKE?
WHA...
...WELL, ANYTHING EXCEPT HORROR, I GUESS I LIKE MOVIES LIKE STAND BY ME.
MUSIC TO MY BLEEDING EARS!
Ooh..
Excellent!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Do you have Dolls of Meat?
Oh long time no see
NEW RELEASE
WHAT?
He's only allowed to watch horror movies at home.
YOU'RE SUCH A BOY
HI, CAN I HELP YOU?
Normal
I LIKE UH, BATMAN
EXCUSE ME!!
FRIENDS OF YOURS
They're vampires.
COME WITH ME! I THINK THERE'S SOME ROAD KILL OUT HERE YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN!

HOW THE HELL DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
WE CAME TO SEE HIKARU. 26 YEARS OLD HER HOBBY IS PLAYING TENNIS (YOU GUESS)
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WELL, THAT WAS RUDE!
GO AWAY! DON'T BOTHER ME WHILE I'M WORKING!
OH, YEAH!
THEY THOUGHT WE WERE A GROCERY STORE.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?


HEY, DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
HI, CAN I HELP YOU?
THIS... COULD THIS MEAN..?
NO... I D- DON'T..


レンタルDVDコーナー
DVD
EXCUSE ME!
ROBBERS!
They look suspicious.
THE BATHROOM IS THIS WAY!
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
I CAN'T WORK LIKE THIS!
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ME FIRED?!
OF COURSE NOT. WHY DO YOU THINK WE'RE WEARING THESE CLEVER DISGUISES?
Stroke of brilliance in my mind.
Absolutely. Love.
IN WHAT WAY ARE THOSE CLEVER?!


SABATO, IS IT WRONG FOR PARENTS TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR CHILD?
WE WERE JUST CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, SO...
JUST RENT SOME THING AND GO HOME, PLEASE!
WE'RE JUST HERE AS REGULAR CUSTOMERS...
NO ONE NEEDS TO KNOW WE'RE YOUR PARENTS
しんぱい
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...
NEW

HORROR VIG
I'LL TAKE THESE, PLEASE.
Minced Human
Fiddler Crab From Hell
DVD
YOU'RE A NEW MEMBER, RIGHT? MAY I HAVE YOUR ID, PLEASE?
OH GOD! MY NAME'S ON THERE!!!
IS MY INSURANCE CARD, OKAY?

YES! I'LL MAKE A PHOTOCOPY RIGHT AWAY!!
SABATO, THIS--
KAFF!
I'M SORRY, SIR. I ACCIDENTALLY SPILLED SOME TONER.
Aagh!
GASP!
CRAP! THE TONER!
OUT
KAFF! KAFF!
WHOOA!
AAARGH!
they don't get near me!
THE CASH REGISTER DOESN'T WORK BECAUSE OF THAT STUFF!

I'M ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE. I'M SUCH A KLUTZ
THAT WAS ONE BIG MISTAKE, HUH!
I'M SORRY.
I'M FIRED, RIGHT...?
OH, COME ON, CHEER UP! EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES AT FIRST.

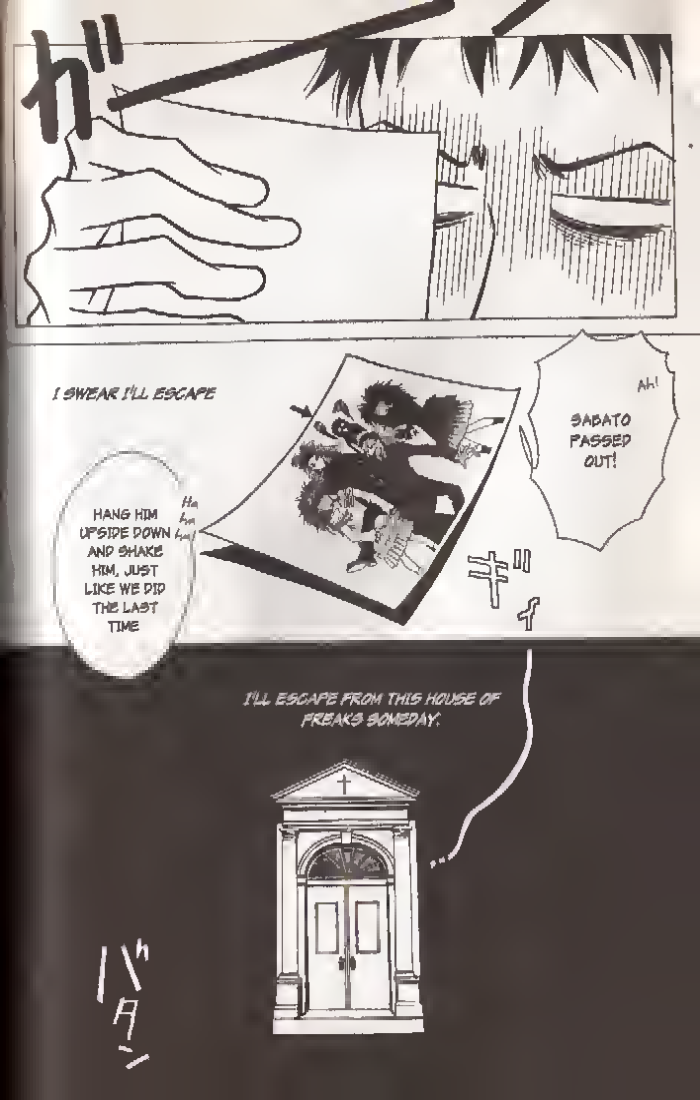
SHE MUST BE MY GODDESS OF MERCY!
OH..
I KNOW! SINCE WE'RE BOTH OFF TOMORROW, WANNA GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
MY TREAT!
KENWOOD

TODAY'S THE DAY THAT I TELL HIKARU HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER. I'LL SAY A LITTLE PRAYER BEFORE I DO AND THAT WILL BE THAT. THINGS COULDN'T BE MORE PERFECT!
He was making plans all night?
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING FOR LONG?
HI, SABATO!
They don't even know I'm here.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, AND MY FAMILY'S NOWHERE TO BE SEEN
NO, NOT AT ALL!
...looks more radiant inside of the store.

I DON'T HEAR THAT FROM A LOT OF GUYS, SO THANK YOU.
DON'T YOU THINK I'M A LITTLE OLD FOR YOU?
HIKARU...
NOT AT ALL!
I PUT A SPECIAL RING TONE ON MY PHONE FOR YOU. IT, UH... IT REFLECTS MY FEELINGS FOR YOU. WILL YOU RING MY CELL PHONE?
HIKARU IS A MOVIE PERSON, SO WHAT BETTER SONG IS THERE TO SHOW HER HOW I FEEL...

...THAN THE THEME TO TITANIC?
ドキン
ドキン
ドキン
ドキン
♪EEEP
♪EEEP
The theme song to Jaws
ダッ
ダッ
ダーラッ
ダーラッダーラ
ダーラッダーラッ
ダダーラダーラ
ハァン!
SLAP!

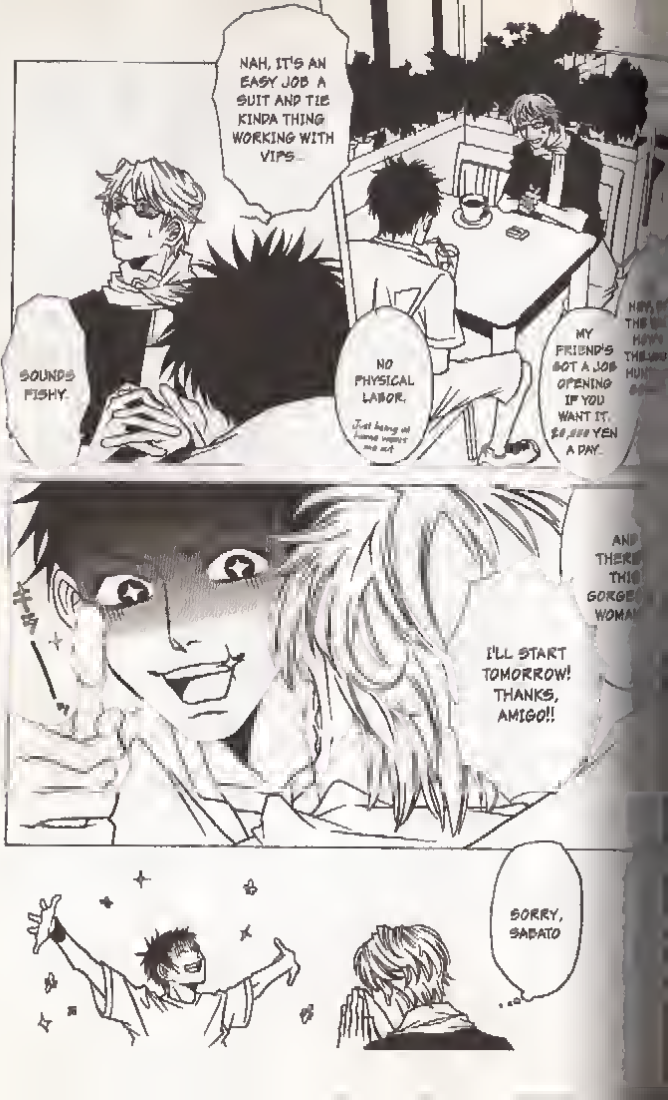
Given up the will to argue
COME NOW, MISA, LEAVE HIM ALONE.
WHAT? ARE YOU STILL MA AT ME FOR CHANGING YOU RING TONE?
BY THE WAY, WE GOT THE PICTURES FROM YOUR GRADUATION BACK.

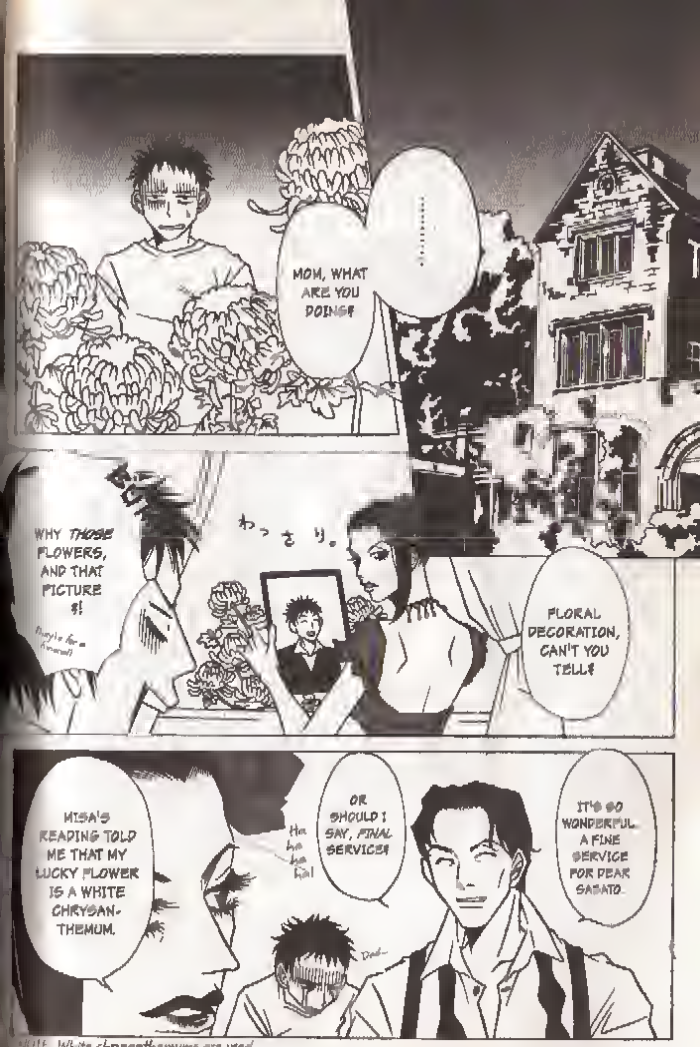

ガ
I SWEAR I'LL ESCAPE
Ah!
SABATO PASSED OUT!
HANG HIM UPSIDE DOWN AND SHAKE HIM, JUST LIKE WE DID THE LAST TIME
Ha ha ha!
I'LL ESCAPE FROM THIS HOUSE OF FREAKS SOMEDAY.
ハハン

5

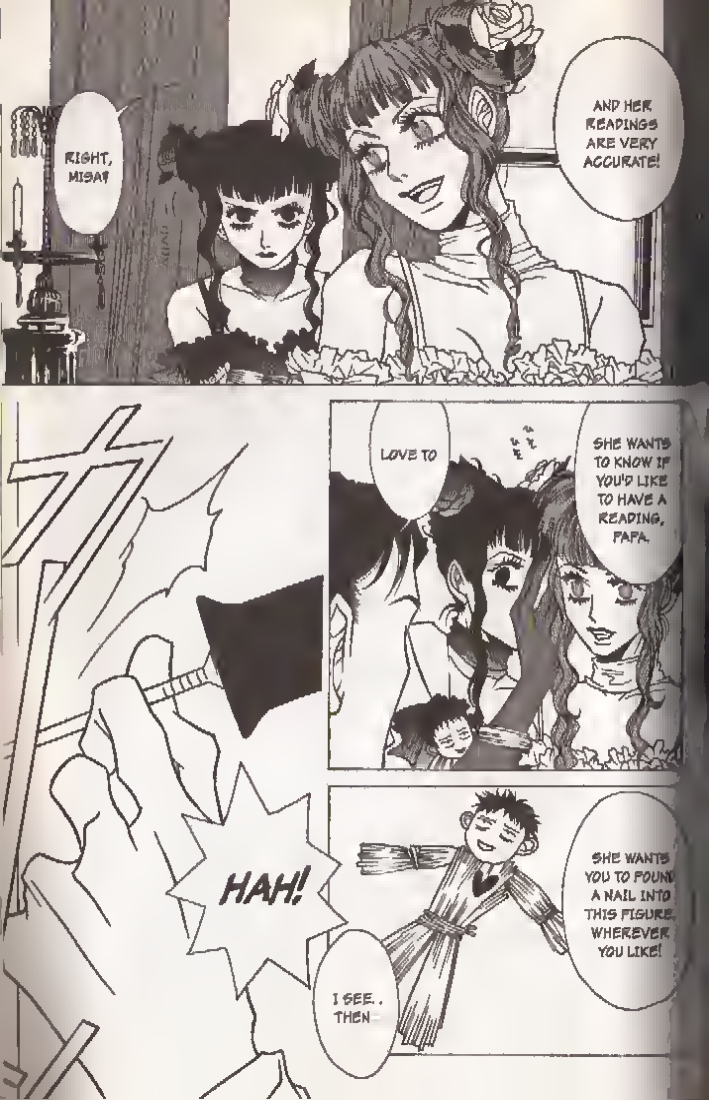
THIS TIME I MEAN IT I'M LEAVING THAT HOUSE.
DAMMIT, I'M LEAVING
WHILE I WAS ASLEEP, THEY SPRAY-PAINTED MY FACE BLUE!
You're scaring me
CALM DOWN, MAN. YOUR FACE IS TURNING BLUE.
I THINK THAT'S JUST HOW THEY EXPRESS THEIR LOVE
I DON'T WANT THEIR FREAKY LOVE!
IT'S SPRAY PAINT, GODDAMMIT!

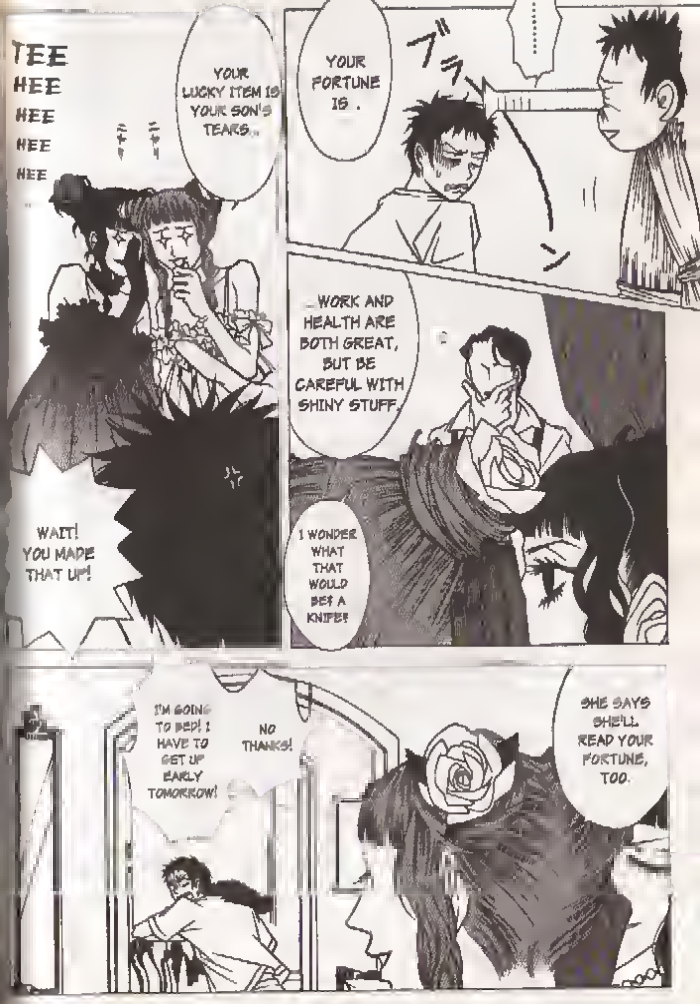
** It reads "IT'S LIKE THEY TAGGED MY FACE!"


NAH, IT'S AN EASY JOB A SUIT AND TIE KINDA THING WORKING WITH VIPS...
SOUNDS FISHY.
NO PHYSICAL LABOR.
Just being at home waiting on a call
MY FRIEND'S GOT A JOB OPENING IF YOU WANT IT. ¥8,888 YEN A DAY.
I'LL START TOMORROW! THANKS, AMIGO!!
SORRY, SADATO
...


MOM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
.....
WHY THOSE FLOWERS, AND THAT PICTURE?!
People like a funeral!
わっさり。
FLORAL DECORATION, CAN'T YOU TELL?
MISA'S READING TOLD ME THAT MY LUCKY FLOWER IS A WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM.
Ha ha ha ha!
OR SHOULD I SAY, FINAL SERVICE?
Dad...
IT'S SO WONDERFUL. A FINE SERVICE FOR DEAR SADATO.

*NOTE White chrysanthemums are used almost exclusively for funerals in Japan


RIGHT, MISA?
AND HER READINGS ARE VERY ACCURATE!
LOVE TO
SHE WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE A READING, PAPA.
HAH!
I SEE.. THEN...
SHE WANTS YOU TO POUND A NAIL INTO THIS FISURE, WHEREVER YOU LIKE!

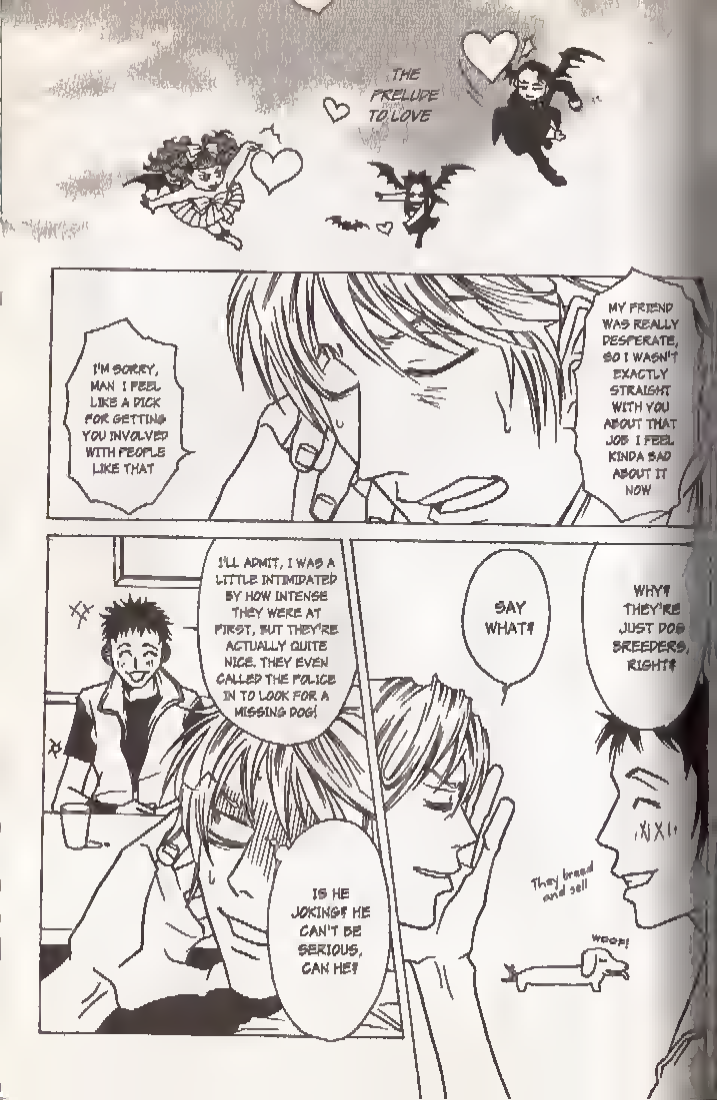

TEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
YOUR LUCKY ITEM IS YOUR SON'S TEARS.
WAIT! YOU MADE THAT UP!
YOUR FORTUNE IS .
.....
...WORK AND HEALTH ARE BOTH GREAT, BUT BE CAREFUL WITH SHINY STUFF.
I WONDER WHAT THAT WOULD BE? A KNIFE?
SHE SAYS SHE'LL READ YOUR FORTUNE, TOO.
NO THANKS!
I'M GOING TO BED! I HAVE TO GET UP EARLY TOMORROW!

THIS JOB'LL GIVE ME THE MONEY TO MOVE. AND WHO KNOWS, MAYBE —I'LL WIND UP WITH A NEW GIRLFRIEND IN THE PROCESS...
REGARDLESS, I'LL SOON BE OUT OF THIS WRETCHED HOUSE! YOU'LL SEE!
PARDON ME! I'M SADATO OBISA. I'M HERE ABOUT THE PART-TIME JOB.

OH?
YOU'RE THE NEW KID, EH?
3
I JUST PICKED UP SOME NEW PET FOOD.
GOOD. GIVE IT TO THE DOGS RIGHT AWAY.
FOOD?
DOGS?
WHY DON'T YOU START BY ANSWERING THE PHONES?
GOT IT, KID!
O-OKAY.
Gasp!
BREEEEP!!

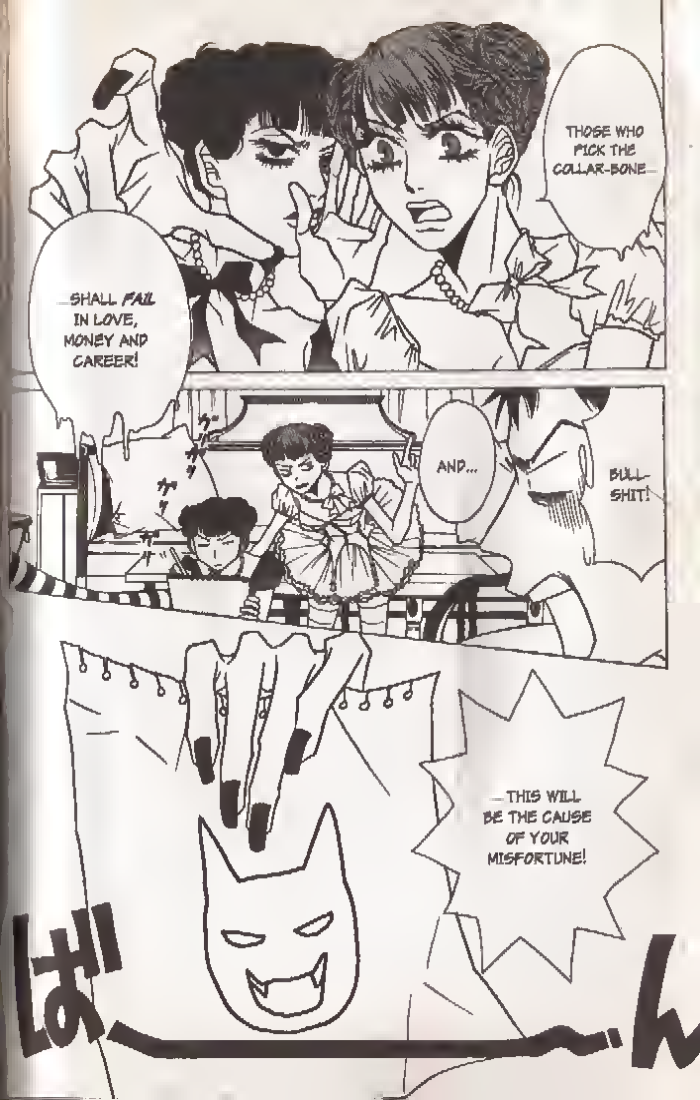
HELLO, THIS IS UM.
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS COMPANY'S NAME AGAIN?
UH... MR. LEE SAYS THAT JOHN TOOK THE FOOD AND RAN.
WHAT?!
FIND HIM NOW! GET TO HIM BEFORE THE POLICE DO!
HOLD ON A MOMENT
LET'S NOT MAKE SUCH A FUSS OVER A RUNAWAY DOG LOOK, YOU'RE FRIGHTENING THE POOR BOY.

ズド
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY EVERYONE'S JUST UPSET BECAUSE JOHN WAS OUR FAVORITE.
NO PROBLEM! I'LL LOOK FOR JOHN WITH YOU!
YEAH... NICE.
ぼか
AH...
Hee hee
YOU'RE A FUNNY BOY. I'M SHINO
NICE TO MEET YOU.


THE PRELUDE TO LOVE
MY FRIEND WAS REALLY DESPERATE, SO I WASN'T EXACTLY STRAIGHT WITH YOU ABOUT THAT JOB. I FEEL KINDA BAD ABOUT IT NOW
I'M SORRY, MAN. I FEEL LIKE A DICK FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE LIKE THAT
I'LL ADMIT, I WAS A LITTLE INTIMIDATED BY HOW INTENSE THEY WERE AT FIRST, BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY QUITE NICE. THEY EVEN CALLED THE POLICE IN TO LOOK FOR A MISSING DOG!
IS HE JOKING? HE CAN'T BE SERIOUS, CAN HE?
SAY WHAT?
WHY? THEY'RE JUST DOG BREEDERS, RIGHT?
They breed and sell
woof!

I FORGOT THAT WHEN A WOMAN ENTERS THE PICTURE, HE BECOMES BLIND TO THE WORKINGS OF REALITY.
He's resting
I'M GRATEFUL! AFTER ALL, IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU I WOULDN'T HAVE MET SHINO!
OH, MISA! YOU SAVED ME!
BE CAREFUL WITH SHINY STUFF! FISH SCALES ARE SHINY! YOU WERE SO RIGHT!
He he he!
HURRY
NEARLY 60 PEOPLE WERE SENT TO THE HOSPITAL TODAY. THEY GOT FOOD POISONING FROM THE MACKEREL SUSHI AT THE EMPLOYEE CAFETERIA.
Hmmm...

MISA'S READINGS ARE TRULY AMAZING!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE A READING, TOO... ABOUT MY LOVE LIFE, PERHAPS?
テレッ
ALL RIGHT. PICK WHICH ONE OF THESE YOU LIKE THE BEST
I GUESS THIS ONE...
It's hers? They're all bones.


THOSE WHO PICK THE COLLAR-BONE
SHALL FAIL IN LOVE, MONEY AND CAREER!
AND...
BULL-SHIT!
THIS WILL BE THE CAUSE OF YOUR MISFORTUNE!
ばー

I SUPPOSE IT COULD BE JOHN... BUT HE'S BROUGHT ME NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK SO FAR. HE BROUGHT ME SHINO...
MOM! KNOCK IT OFF!
Oh, my. I might have to add more lucky flowers.
You HAD to add a villain?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PSYCHOTIC BUNNY AM I DONNIE DARKO ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

FORGET IT! I'M NOT GONNA BUY INTO THIS FORTUNE-TELLING SHIT!

NOT YET. HE'S QUITE THE RUNNER.
GOOD MORNING!
HAVE YOU FOUND THE DOG YET?
?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
HOT WATER AND THE FIRST AID KIT, SABATO!
SUGIMOTO'S MEN GOT ME! THE BASTARDS!
FUCKING JOHN STARTED MESSING IN THEIR TERRITORY.

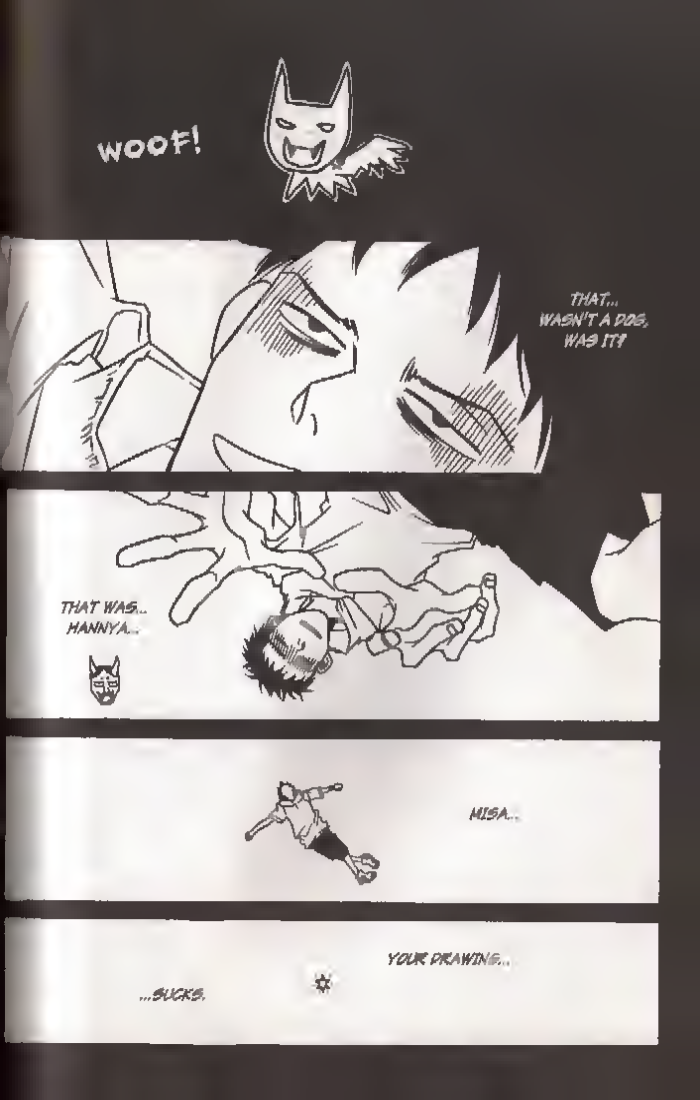
Messing in their territory?
IS HE TALKING ABOUT MARKING? IS THAT REALLY THAT BIG OF A DEAL?
MR. SUGIMOTO IS PRETTY SHORT-TEMPERED, ISN'T HE?
OH.
ARE YOU SURPRISED? IT'S REALLY QUITE COMMON.
トキ
BEING BETRAYED... I'M GROWING QUITE TIRED OF IT
I WONDER IF YOUNG SABATO WILL RUN AWAY, TOO?
WHAT?

OH,
I'M SURE HE WANTS TO COME BACK TO YOU!
You were feeling blue, weren't you?
JOHN DIDN'T BETRAY YOU.
YOU HAVE A GREAT JOB!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
I KNOW MY JOB IS QUITE SHAMEFUL..
NO ONE HAS EVER SAID THINGS LIKE THAT TO ME.
PERHAPS.. YOU WOULD RUN AWAY WITH ME INSTEAD?
SHINO

ばぁぉん
HEY!
JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
SUGIMOTO!
Eek!
YOUR BOY'S BEEN PLAYING AROUND ON MY SIDE OF THE FENCE, SHINO!
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO TO CLEAN UP THIS MESS?!
HUH?!
WH-WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? JUST BECAUSE OUR DOG PEED IN YOUR...
Hey! Hey! Hey!
WONDER-FUL

ALL THIS WHINING BECAUSE OUR DEALER WAS CAUGHT SELLING IN YOUR TERRITORY?!
YOU KNOW FULL WELL I'M HANNYA NO SHINO, YET YOU STILL WANT TO FUCK WITH ME!

GYAAAAAH!
あぁ
あぁ
あぁ
あぁ
ROAR
BOSS!
PROTECT THE BOSS!

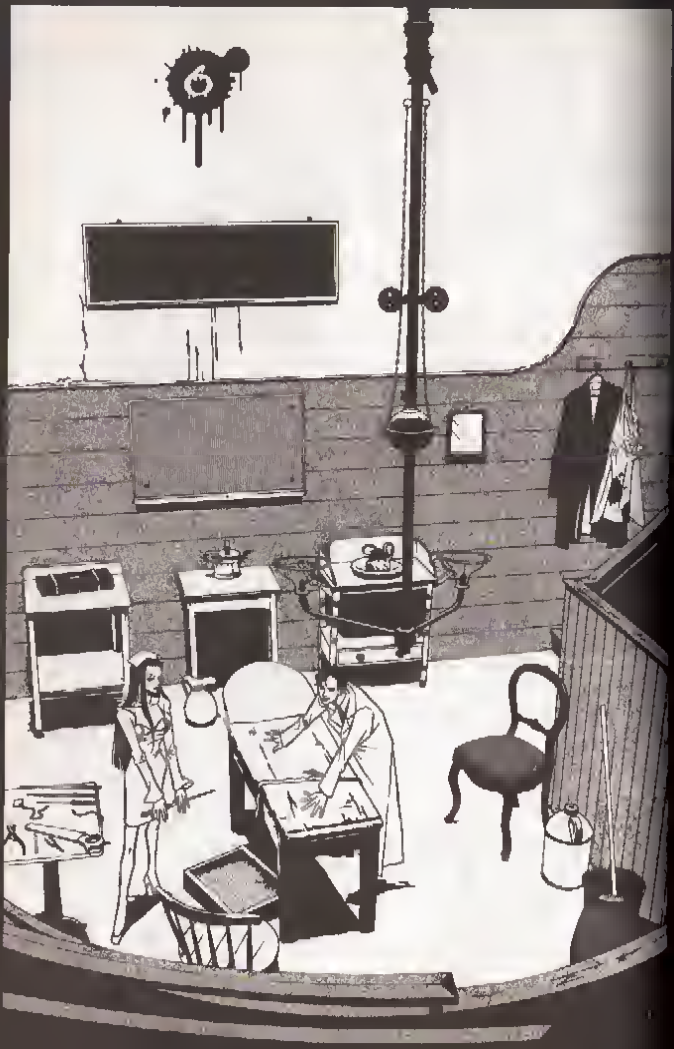

WOOF!
THAT... WASN'T A DOG, WAS IT?
THAT WAS... HANNYA...
MISA...
YOUR DRAWING...
...SUCKS.

SEE! I TOLD YOU THAT MISA'S READ-INGS ARE ACCURATE.
YEAH. SEE!
SHUT UP! MAYBE I FAILED IN CAREER AND IN LOVE, BUT..
BUT MY MONEY
HEY, FREE POP-SICLE.
ASH! I FORGOT. TO GET PAID

My lucky flowers.
MOM!

THERE ARE PLENTY OF TAXI DRIVERS ON THE ROAD TO NORMALCY...
HISS!
キィ

...BUT NONE OF THEM STOP FOR MY FAMILY.
ハタン

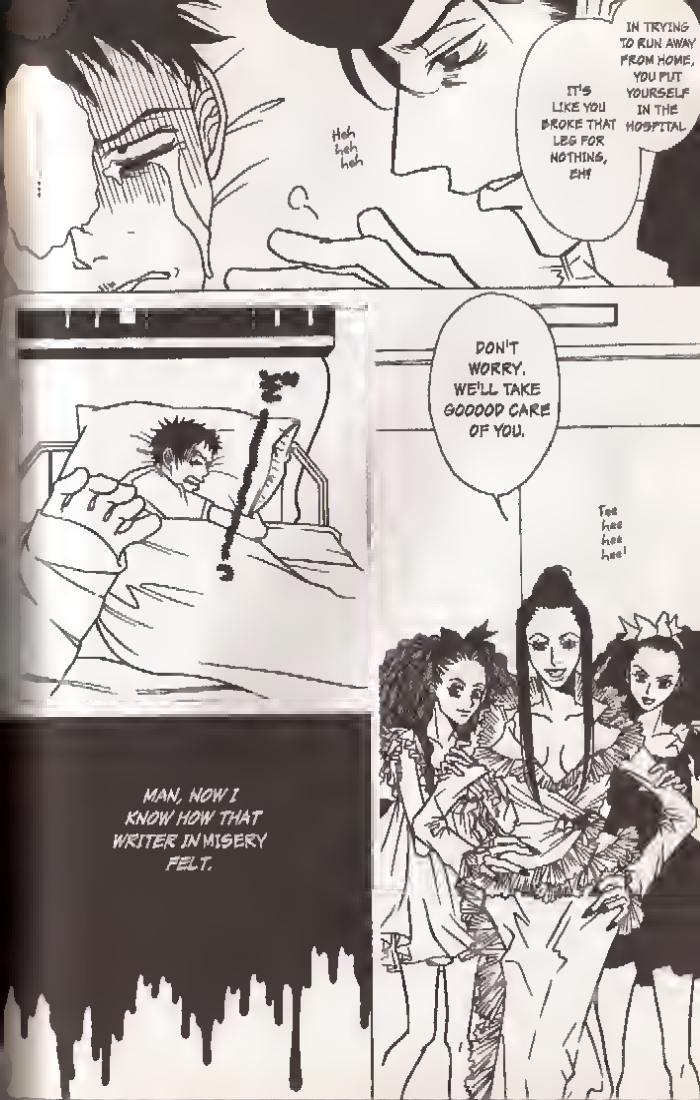


I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!!!
YOU ALL ARE NO LONGER MY FAMILY!
SABATO!
SON, HOLD ON!
WAIT!

CRASH!
WATCH OUT, SABATO!
DAAAAD!
D-DAD...!

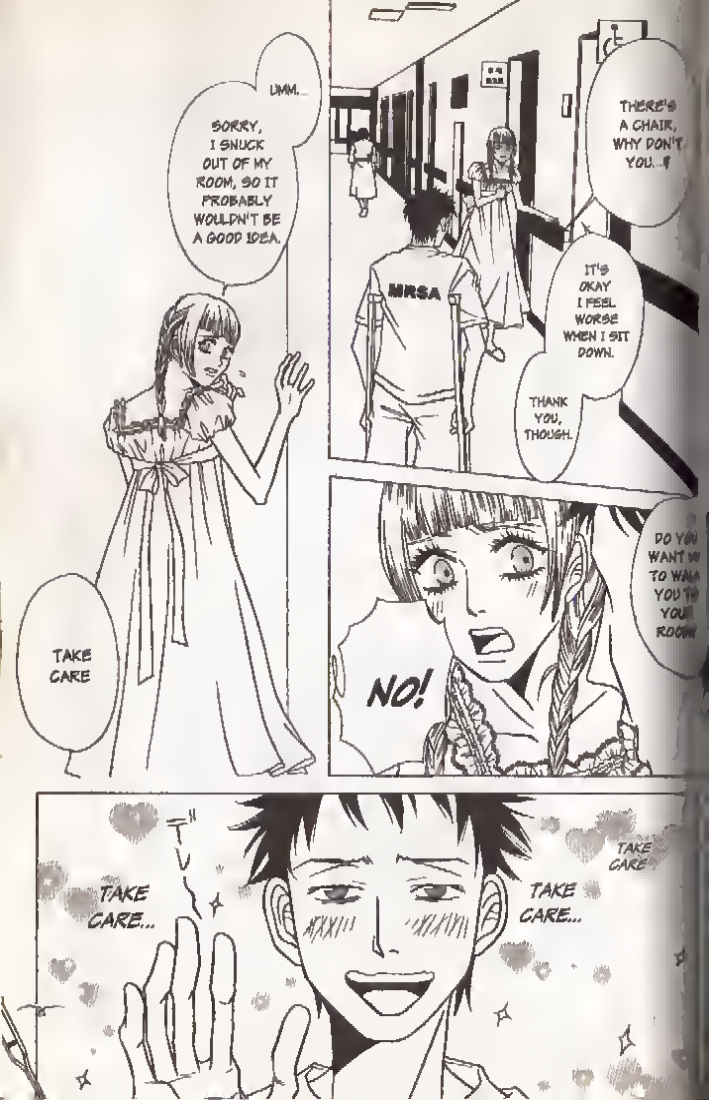
.....
REPLAY
OH?
OH.
ドカ!
I KNEW IT. I'M CURSED.
OH, MY... QUITE THE MORBID SCENE, ISN'T IT?

LISA!
HEY! STOP SCRIBBLING ON MY CAST, MISA!
WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE DOWN THAT WEIRD SHRINE?!
ENOUGH! ENOUGH! JUST GO HOME! YOU'RE NOT HELPING ME GET ANY BETTER HERE!
SABATO, WHAT A THING TO SAY!
LOOK HOW WORRIED EVERYONE IS ABOUT YOU. THEY EVEN BROUGHT GIFTS
びぃっ
WE BROUGHT YOU SOME BOOKS AND CANDLES, SO YOU WOULDN'T BE BORED ALL BY YOURSELF.
CALCIUM IS GOOD FOR YOUR BONES
CANNED FISH AND YOGURT, MOTHER KNOWS BEST


IN TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME, YOU PUT YOURSELF IN THE HOSPITAL.
IT'S LIKE YOU BROKE THAT LEG FOR NOTHING, EH?
Heh heh heh
...
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL TAKE GOOOOD CARE OF YOU.
Hee hee hee hee!
MAN, NOW I KNOW HOW THAT WRITER IN MISERY FELT.

HUH? WHY IS EVERYONE STARING AT ME?
MAYBE I'M POPULAR WITH THE NURSES?
GOTTA GET BETTER BEFORE MY PARENTS COME BACK.
A NURSE WOULD MAKE A GREAT GIRL-FRIEND
MRSA
MRSA = Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (a bacteria often found in hospitals)

OWW!
ガタ
AH...
カン
ボーン
A-ARE YOU... OKAY?
MRSA
OH MAN! IS SHE EVER MY TYPE! COULD THIS BE MORE PERFECT?!


UMM...
SORRY, I SNUCK OUT OF MY ROOM, SO IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE A GOOD IDEA.
TAKE CARE
THERE'S A CHAIR, WHY DON'T YOU...?
MRSA
IT'S OKAY I FEEL WORSE WHEN I SIT DOWN.
THANK YOU, THOUGH.
DO YOU WANT ME TO WALK YOU TO YOUR ROOM
NO!
TAKE CARE...
TAKE CARE...
TAKE CARE...

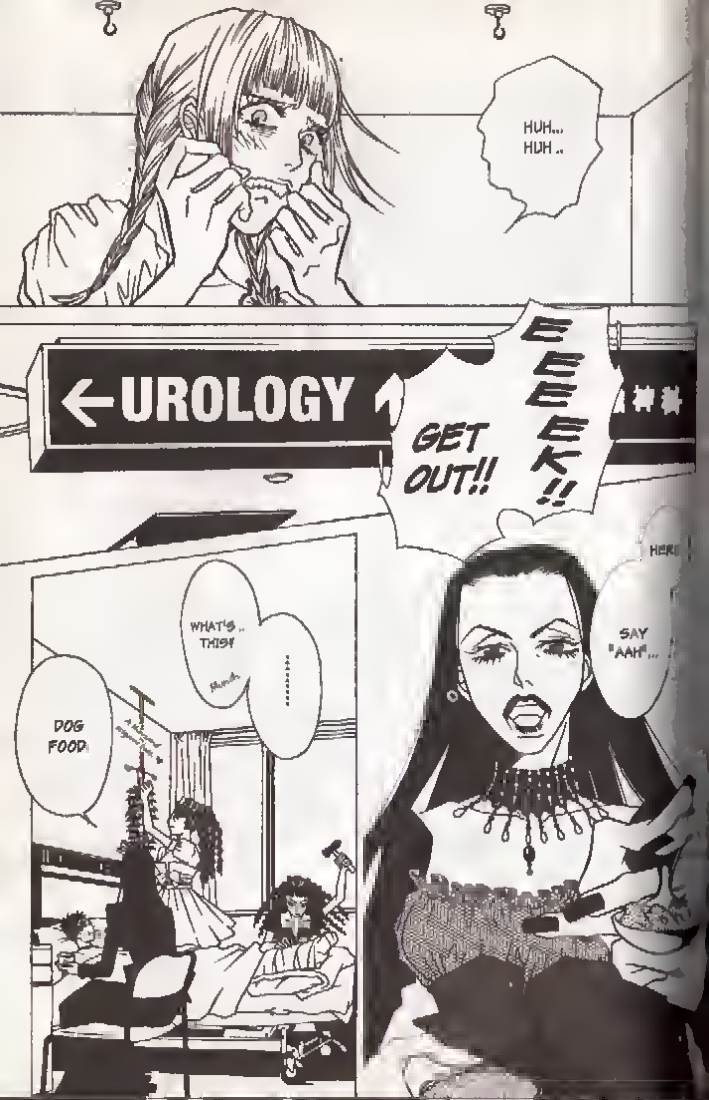
SLEEP'S NO GOOD
MAYBE I'LL READ A LITTLE
LET'S SEE. "THE SCALPEL SHINES IN HELL".
"HAUNTED HOSPITALS IN TOKYO".
"HANGMAN'S HOUSE ON HOSPITAL HILL"
I'VE JUST SEEN LIVING PROOF THAT ANGELS EXIST.
...OR MAYBE NOT! NONE OF THESE ARE NORMAL!
MRSA
!!kEEEEEEEEEE

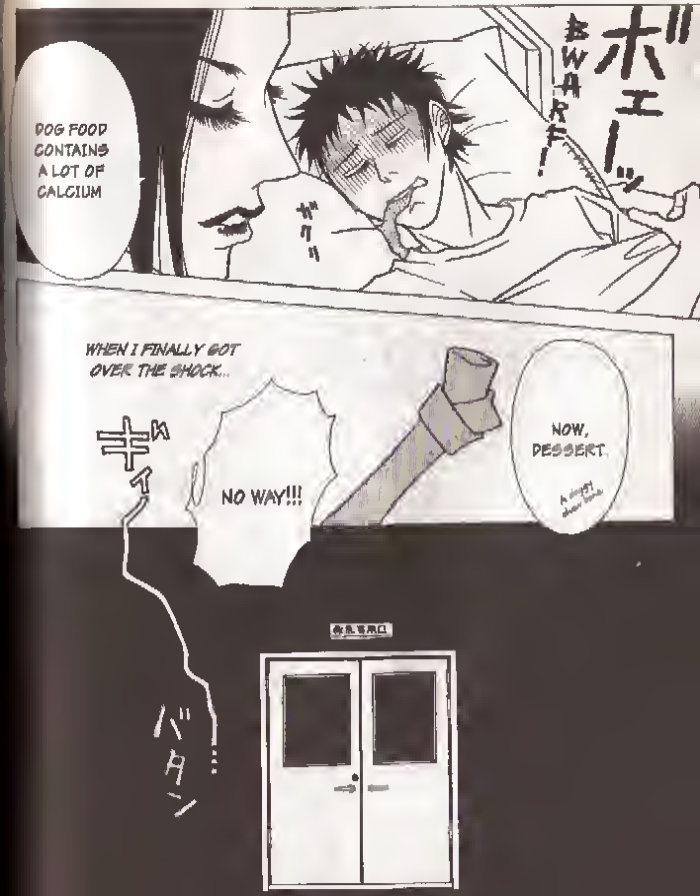
I'M ALL SWEATY I SHOULD CHANGE
IS ANYTHING WRONG, MR. OBIGAE
OH JEEZ.. IT'S JUST A POSTER.
STAY COOL, SABATO.
MRSA
WHAT?
I ♥ NURSE

GASP!
NO! THIS... THIS SHIRT ISN'T...!
THOSE BASTARDS.
HEY!
IF I SEE THOSE GUYS AROUND HERE AGAIN, I'M GONNA PUT THEM IN THE HOSPITAL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S STILL HERE
YEAH... HER OPERATION IS TOMORROW.
POOR THING SHE'S SO YOUNG.
MOM... I'M SCARED.

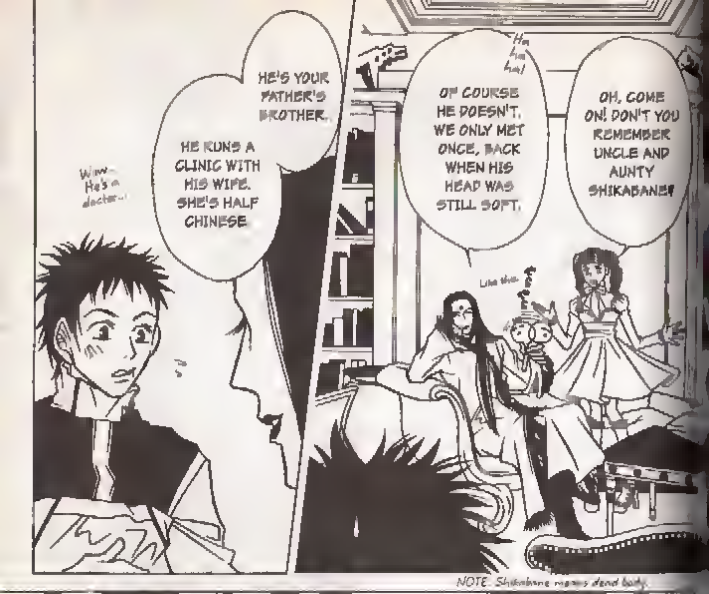
I KNOW, BUT IF YOU DON'T DO THIS, YOU'LL CONTINUE TO BE IN PAIN. DON'T WORRY, SWEETIE. IT'LL BE FINE.
AFTER ALL--
はぁん
SHE'S RIGHT! EVERYTHING'LL TURN OUT FINE!
--IT'S JUST AN OPERATION FOR HEMORRHOIDS.
ガラーン

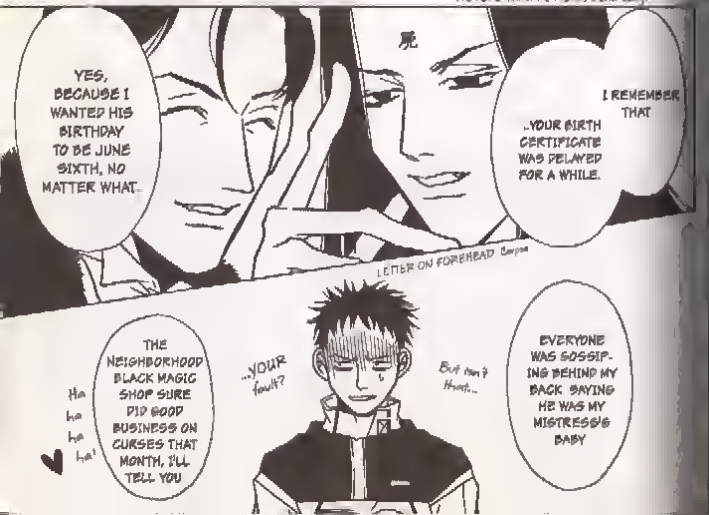

HUH...
HUH..
←UROLOGY
EEEEK!!
GET OUT!!
SAY "AAH"...
WHAT'S THIS?
DOG FOOD


DOG FOOD CONTAINS A LOT OF CALCIUM
ボエー!!
BWARF!
ガクリ
WHEN I FINALLY GOT OVER THE SHOCK...
NO WAY!!!
NOW, DESSERT.
A sweet delicious dessert
バタン...
...I FOUND MYSELF BACK IN THE HOSPITAL WITH KIDNEY STONES BECAUSE OF ALL THE CALCIUM.

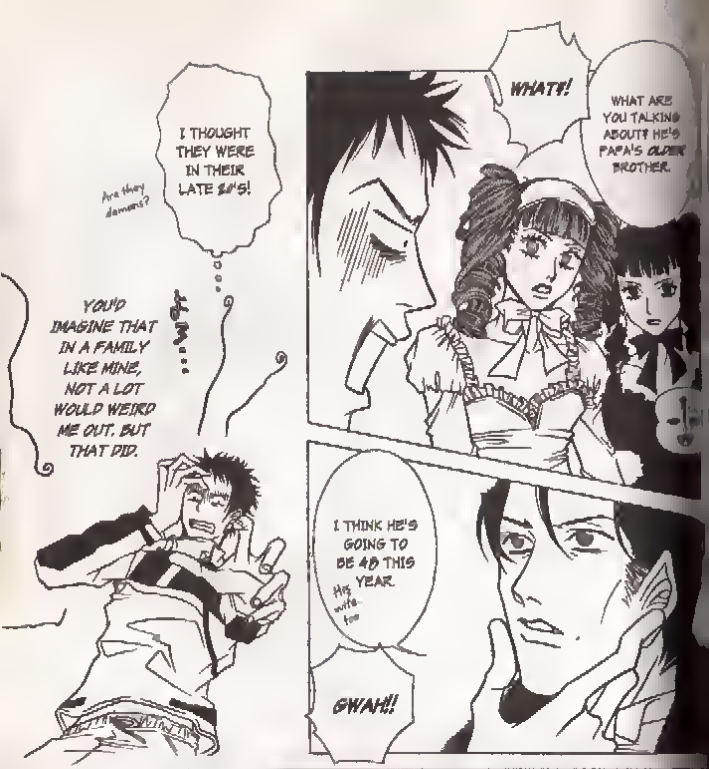
7

I'M HOME!
MAN...
..I REALLY SCREWED UP TODAY'S JOB INTERVIEW.
HEY, SABATO. IT'S BEEN AWHILE.
HI, SWEETIE.
UH...


HE'S YOUR FATHER'S BROTHER.
HE RUNS A CLINIC WITH HIS WIFE. SHE'S HALF CHINESE
Wow... He's a doctor...!
Ha ha ha!
OF COURSE HE DOESN'T. WE ONLY MET ONCE, BACK WHEN HIS HEAD WAS STILL SOFT.
OH, COME ON! DON'T YOU REMEMBER UNCLE AND AUNTY SHIKABANE?
Like this...
NOTE: Shikibane means dead body.


YES, BECAUSE I WANTED HIS BIRTHDAY TO BE JUNE SIXTH, NO MATTER WHAT.
I REMEMBER THAT
..YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE WAS DELAYED FOR A WHILE.
LETTER ON FOREHEAD: Corpse
Ha ha ha ha!
THE NEIGHBORHOOD BLACK MAGIC SHOP SURE DID GOOD BUSINESS ON CURSES THAT MONTH, I'LL TELL YOU
..YOUR fault?
But isn't that...
EVERYONE WAS GOSSIPING BEHIND MY BACK SAYING HE WAS MY MISTRESS'S BABY

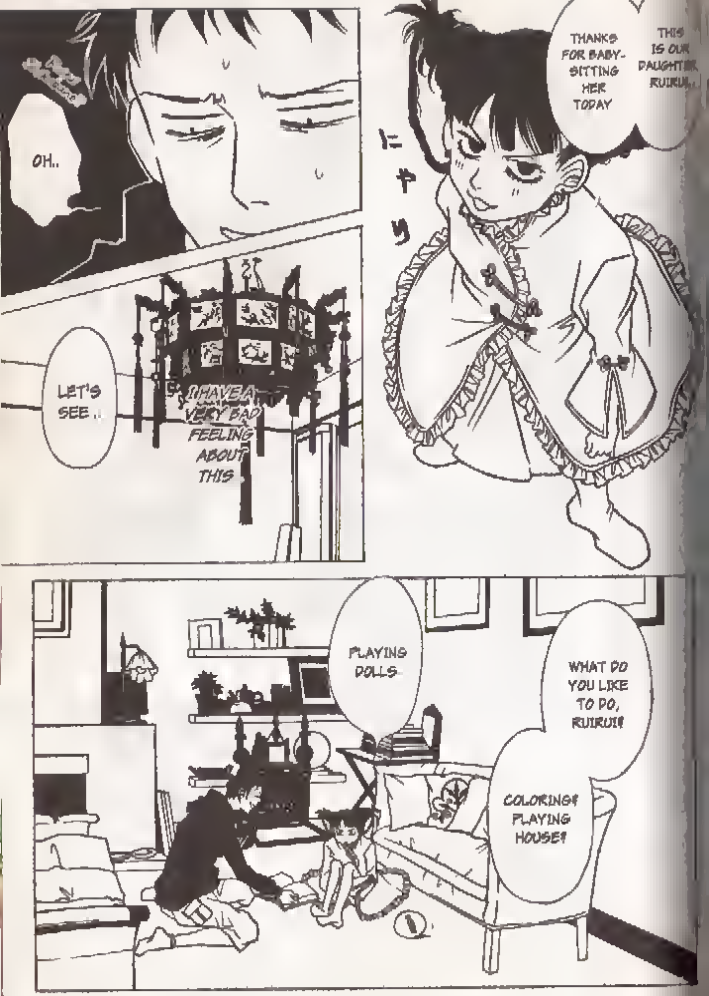
OH YES, I HEAR YOU'RE IN THE MARKET FOR A PART-TIME JOB, AM I RIGHT?
WE COULD USE SOMEONE TO BABYSIT OUR DAUGHTER.
WE BOTH WORK, SO IT'D BE A GREAT HELP.
REALLY? I'D LOVE TO!
I LOVE KIDS! AND EVEN BETTER, KIDS LOVE ME
That sounds great!
NEXT WEEK, THEN.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH A YOUNG BROTHER, DAD

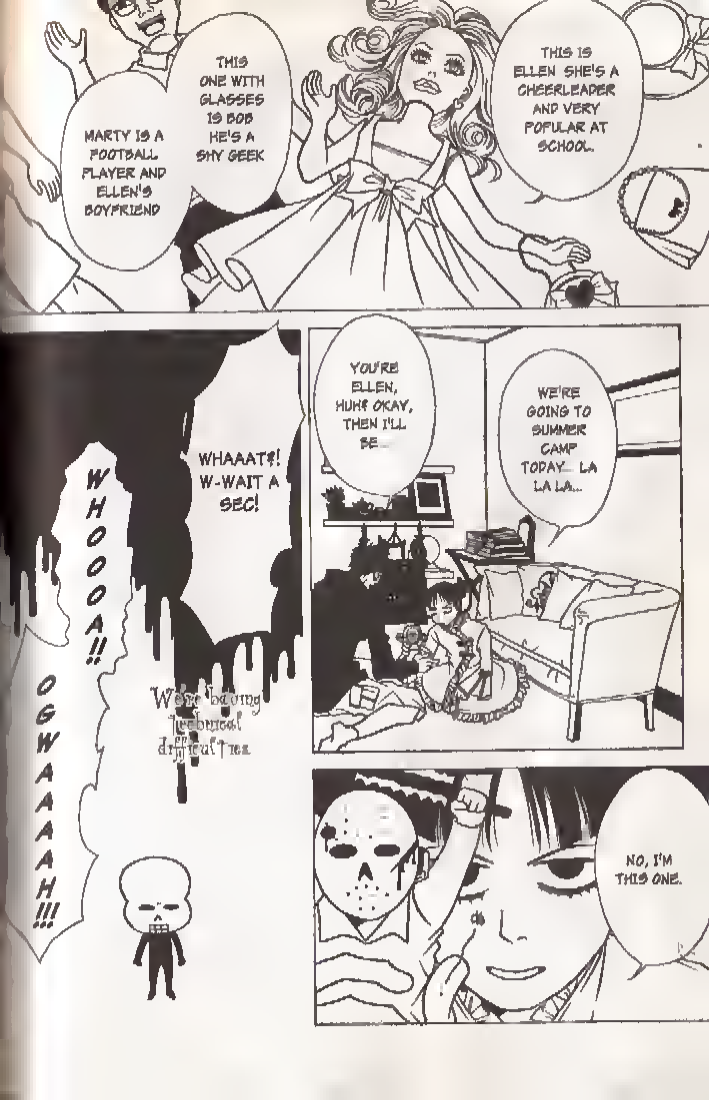

I THOUGHT THEY WERE IN THEIR LATE 50'S!
Are they dancers?
YOU'D IMAGINE THAT IN A FAMILY LIKE MINE, NOT A LOT WOULD WEIRD ME OUT. BUT THAT DID.
WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE'S PAPA'S OLDER BROTHER.
I THINK HE'S GOING TO BE 40 THIS YEAR.
His wife too
GWAH!!

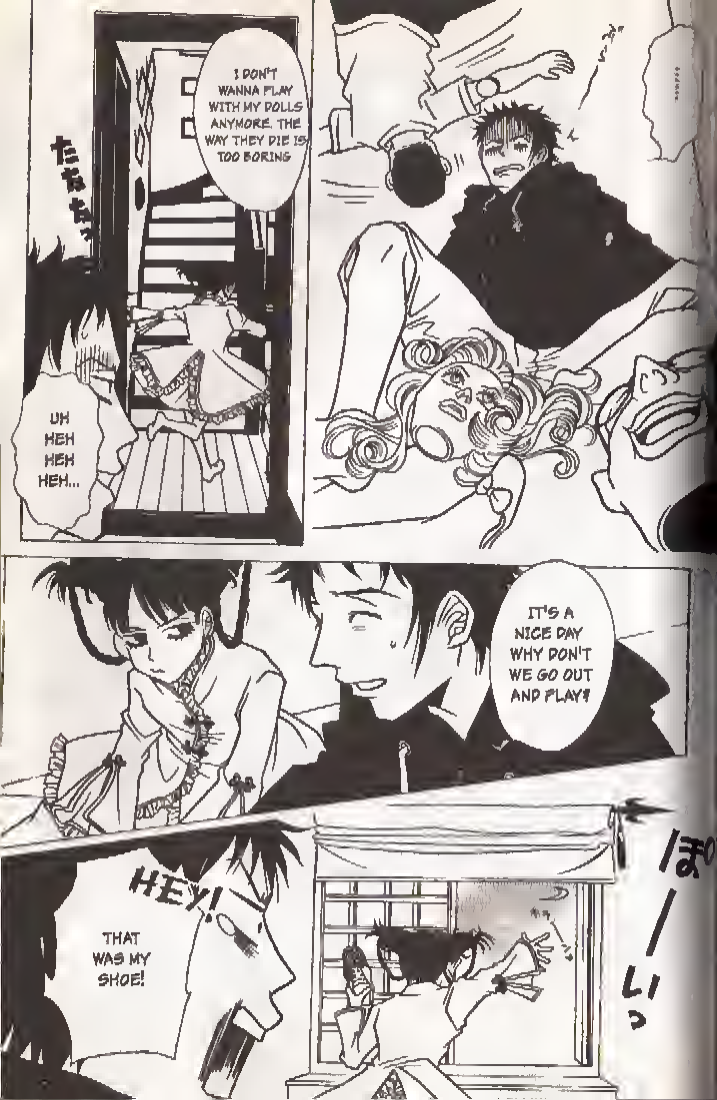
HELLO..!
HAAAAA!!!
KYEEH!!!
HI, SABATO!
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
Uh, Is that guy dead?
THANKS FOR COMING HERE, COME IN.

.....
APPARENTLY, MY FATHER WAS JUST A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK.
?
SO YOU'RE THE GUY WHO CAN'T HOLD ONTO A GIRLFRIEND?
ﾌﾝ
!?

WHA... WHA- WHA..
KAFF! KAFF! KAFF!
?!
KAFF!
HONEY, THAT'S HOW YOU STOP HICCUPS.
You don't have to whisper.
HAS YOUR COUGH STOPPED?
KYEEEH!
GASP!
ARE YOU REALLY A DOCTOR?! AND WHO'S THIS GIRL?!
You almost killed me!
Heh heh
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.


OH..
LET'S SEE..
I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS
にやり
THANKS FOR BABY-SITTING HER TODAY
THIS IS OUR DAUGHTER, RUIRUI.
PLAYING DOLLS
WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO, RUIRUI?
COLORING? PLAYING HOUSE?


MARTY IS A FOOTBALL PLAYER AND ELLEN'S BOYFRIEND
THIS ONE WITH GLASSES IS BOB HE'S A SHY GEEK
THIS IS ELLEN SHE'S A CHEERLEADER AND VERY POPULAR AT SCHOOL.
YOU'RE ELLEN, HUH? OKAY, THEN I'LL BE...
WE'RE GOING TO SUMMER CAMP TODAY... LA LA LA...
WHAAAT?! W-WAIT A SEC!
WHOOOA!!
OGWAAAAAH!!!
We're becoming lesbians! It's difficult!
NO, I'M THIS ONE.

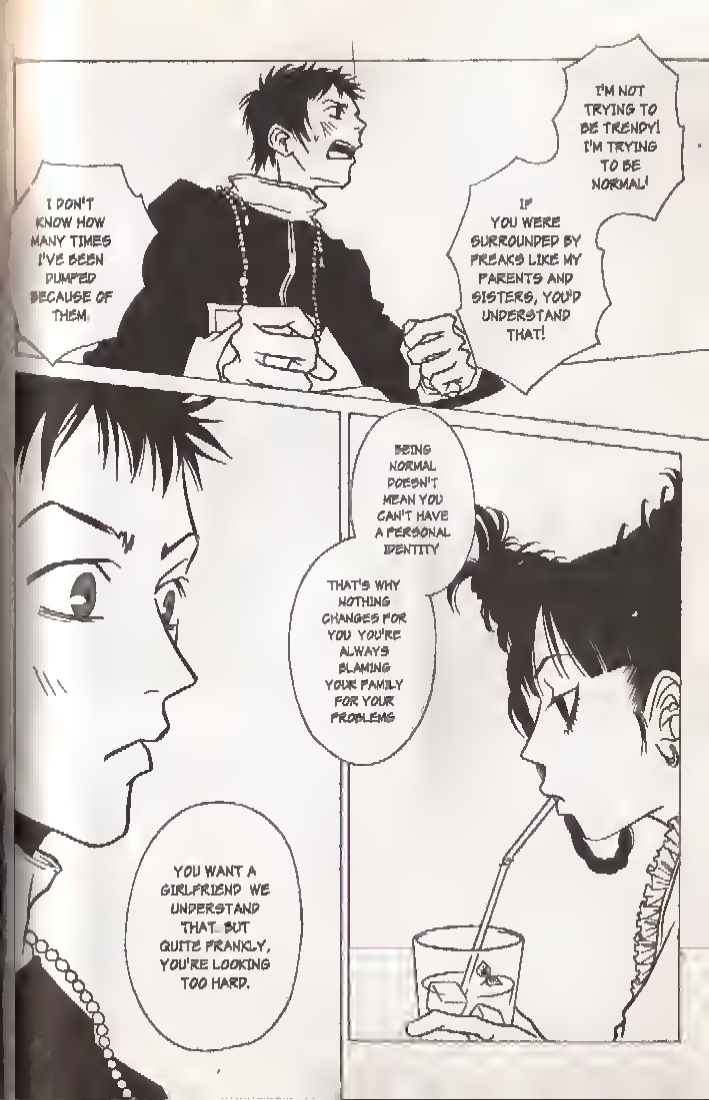

I DON'T WANNA PLAY WITH MY DOLLS ANYMORE. THE WAY THEY DIE IS TOO BORING
たちち
UH HEH HEH HEH...
IT'S A NICE DAY WHY DON'T WE GO OUT AND PLAY?
HEY!
THAT WAS MY SHOE!
ぽーい

WHEN ASKING A LADY OUT, ONE MUST DRESS FORMALLY.
Heh, heh,!
NO, IT'S JUST HARASS-MENT.
THIS IS FORMAL?
.....

BE PATIENT, SABATO. THIS IS JUST A JOB, AND YOU'RE GETTING PAID FOR IT.
NO WAY. DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD.
I WANNA GO TO THE VAMPIRE CAFÉ IN GINZA.
WHERE DO YOU WANNA GO? KIDDY LAND?
YEAH, SHE'S PART OF THE CLAN, ALL RIGHT.

OH..
NO, BUT IT'S A POPULAR SPOT IT'S BEEN IN LOTS OF MAGAZINES
THIS ISN'T IT..
BAD
MARS
OH, MAN..
WHY IS A CUTE CHICK WITH A GEEK LIKE THAT?

HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND GIRLS AT ALL, DO YOU!
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T FIND A GIRL-FRIEND
NO WONDER YOU GET DUMPED.
Tee hee!
I KNOW EVERY THING ABOUT YO FROM LISA AND MIS
WHY AM I NOT SUR-PRISED?
GO TO THE TRENDY CAFÉ... WEAR THE TRENDY OUTFITS...
YOU D WHAT EVERY ONE ELS DOES


I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN PUMPED BECAUSE OF THEM.
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE TRENDY! I'M TRYING TO BE NORMAL!
IF YOU WERE SURROUNDED BY FREAKS LIKE MY PARENTS AND SISTERS, YOU'D UNDERSTAND THAT!
BEING NORMAL DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T HAVE A PERSONAL IDENTITY
THAT'S WHY NOTHING CHANGES FOR YOU. YOU'RE ALWAYS BLAMING YOUR FAMILY FOR YOUR PROBLEMS
YOU WANT A GIRLFRIEND. WE UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT QUITE FRANKLY, YOU'RE LOOKING TOO HARD.

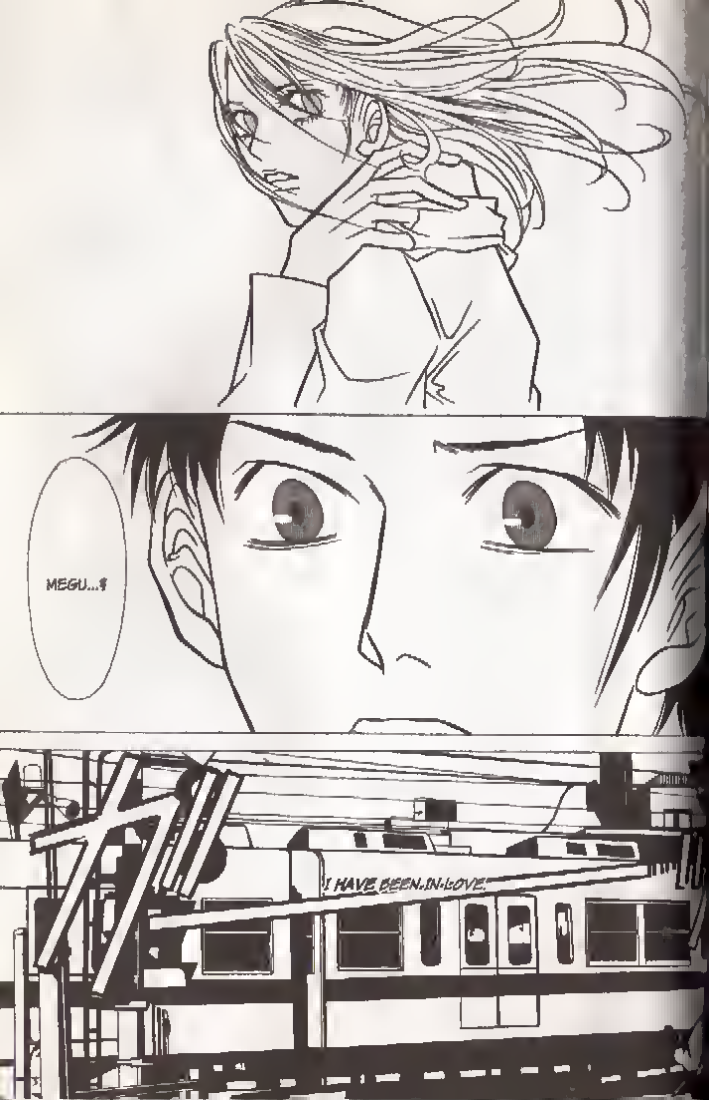
YOU DON'T REALLY LOVE THE GIRL--ANY GIRL'LL DO FOR YOU. IT'S NOT A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON ANYTHING SOLID, SO AT THE FIRST WRINKLE, THE GIRL FREAKS OUT AND YOU GET DUMPED.
CAN I HAVE ANOTHER TOMATO JUICE?

I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD KISS THIS GIRL, PUT HER ACROSS MY KNEE AND SPANK HER, OR CALL THE POLICE AND HAVE HER LOCKED UP.

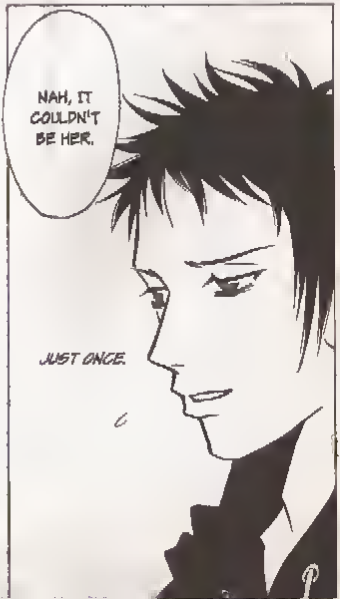
SHE'S DEFINITELY WISE BEYOND HER YEARS. AND IN THIS FAMILY, THAT'S CAUSE FOR CONCERN. STILL, COULD WHAT SHE SAID BE TRUE? MAYBE I HAVEN'T BEEN IN LOVE YET.

HA HA...
THANKS.
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW RUIRUI SO HAPPY. THANK YOU
YOU DESERVE A BONUS. THANK YOU SO MUCH, SABATO.
HAPPY? THAT'S HAPPY?!
カン
カン
カン

ガーン
Shit!
I knew there was a catch!
CHINESE MONEY?!
質
巴屋
HUH?

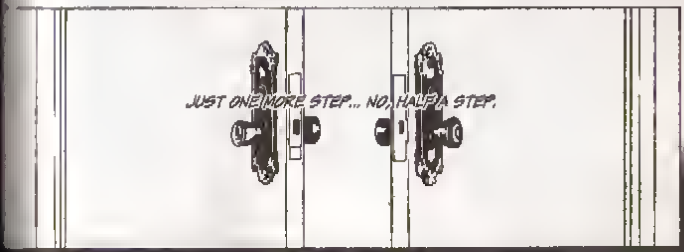

MEGU...?
I HAVE BEEN IN LOVE.

IT WAS BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH. SHE WAS A CLASSMATE OF MINE, BUT THEN SHE MOVED AWAY...

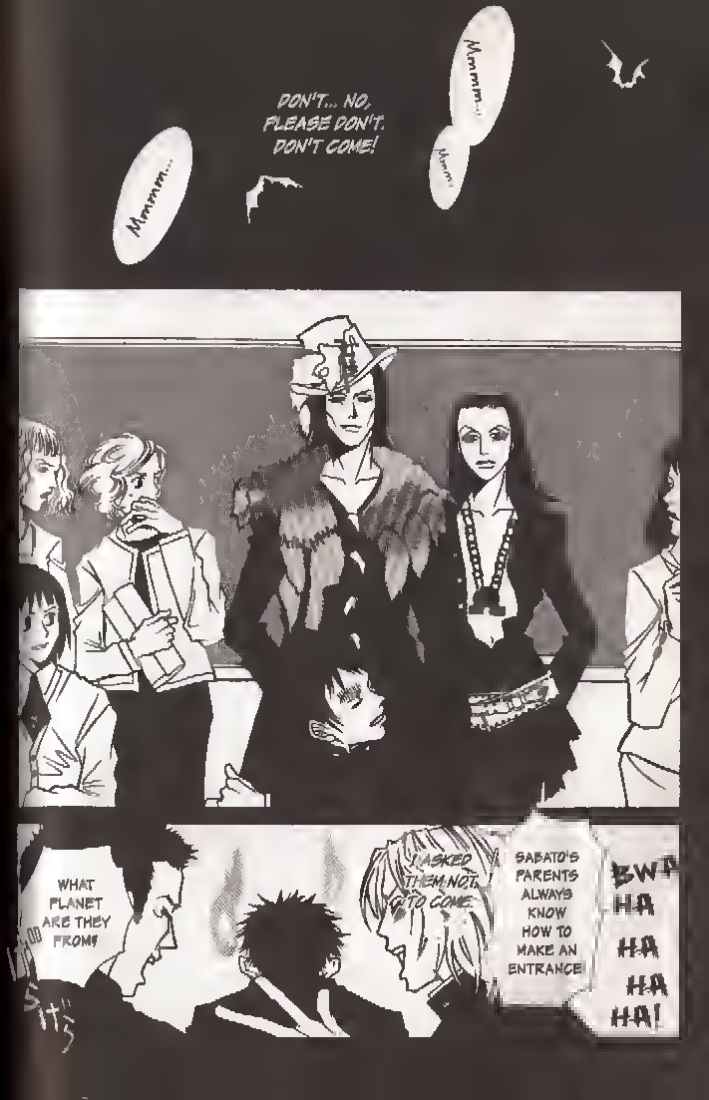


YEAH, THAT WAS LOVE, AND IT DID FEEL DIFFERENT.
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE MY BROTHER GAVE HIM A HARD TIME TODAY.
WHAT'S WITH SABATO? HE'S TOTALLY SPACED OUT.
COULD IT REALLY BE UP TO ME?
FEELS LIKE I'M ALMOST THERE. ALMOST...

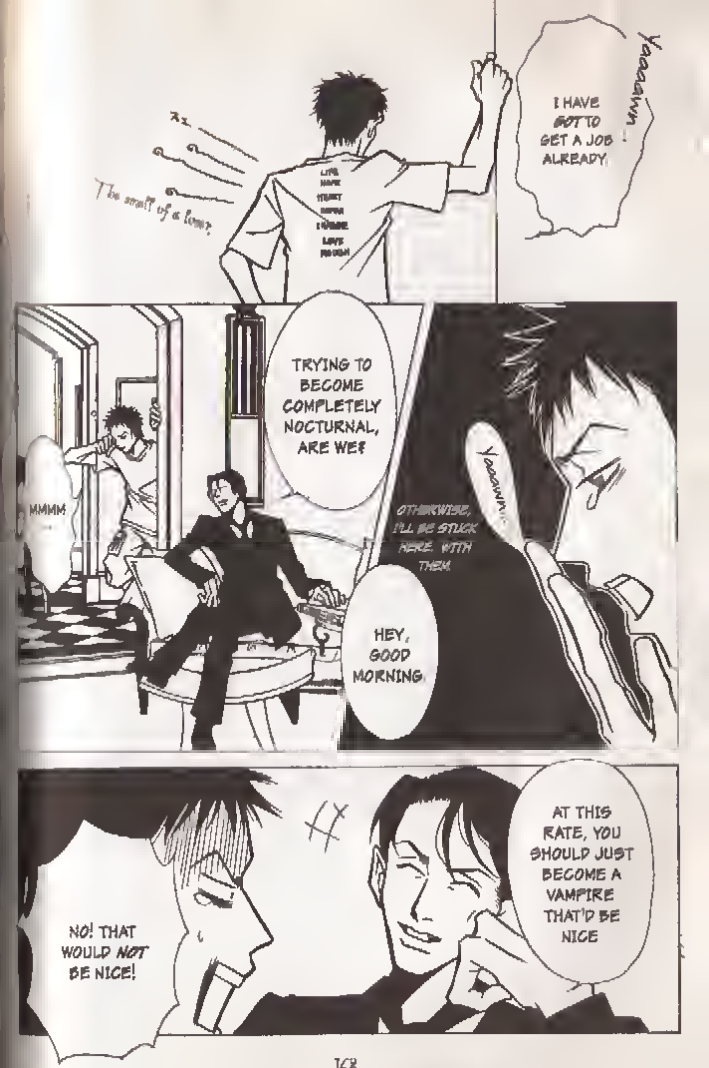
Sigh,
WE SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONES ALLOWED TO TEASE POOR SABATO LIKE THAT WE'RE HIS FAMILY


JUST ONE MORE STEP... NO, HALF A STEP.

MAYBE THE DOOR WAS ALWAYS OPEN.


Mmmm...
DON'T... NO, PLEASE DON'T. DON'T COME!
Mmmm...
Hmm
WHAT PLANET ARE THEY FROM?
I ASKED THEM NOT TO COME.
SABATO'S PARENTS ALWAYS KNOW HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE!
BWA HA HA HA HA!

PARENTS ARE PARENTS.
AND SABATO IS SABATO, RIGHT?
OH, SHIT! LOOK AT THE TIME!


Yaaaawn
I HAVE GOT TO GET A JOB ALREADY
zz
The smell of a lover?
LIFE HAS MANY PATHS
TRYING TO BECOME COMPLETELY NOCTURNAL, ARE WE?
MMMM
Yaaaawn
OTHERWISE, I'LL BE STUCK HERE WITH THEM
HEY, GOOD MORNING
AT THIS RATE, YOU SHOULD JUST BECOME A VAMPIRE THAT'D BE NICE
NO! THAT WOULD NOT BE NICE!

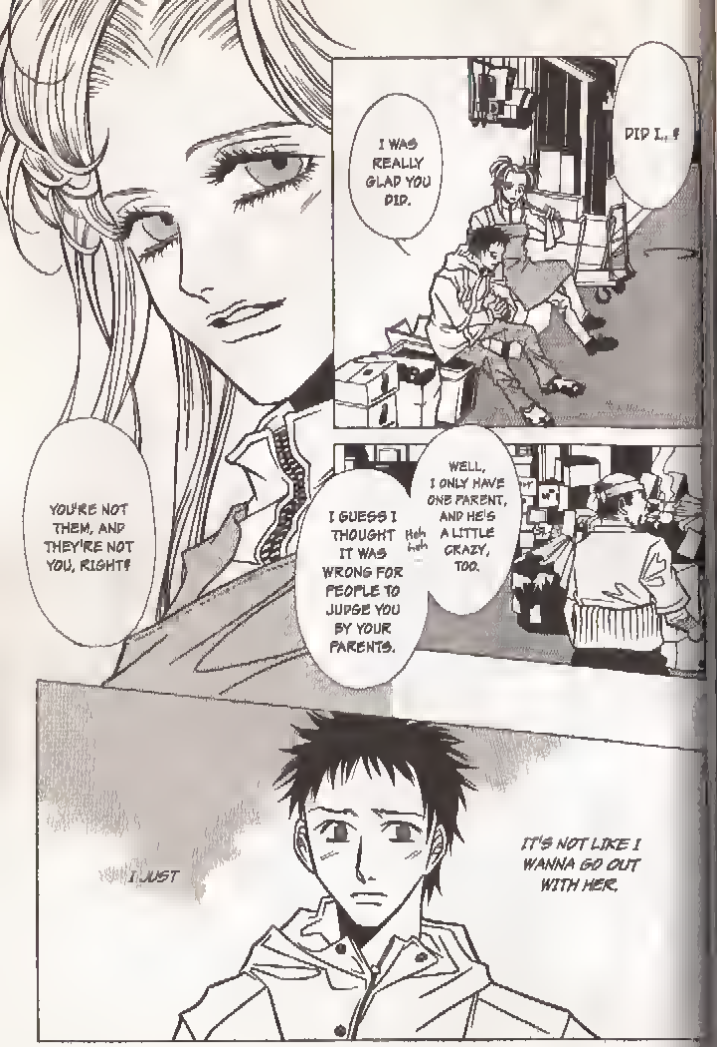
"I WANT TO BECOME A TRAIN WHEN I GROW UP, SO I CAN GO 'CHOO-CHOO' ALL THE TIME. SABAE OSIGA, FIRST GRADE, CLASS 4."
WOULDN'T A VAMPIRE BE BETTER?
Yamato Elementary School
HEY, I KNOW! YOU CAN BECOME A GHOST TRAIN!
NOOO!!
WH-WHERE THE HELL DID YOU FIND THAT?!
Tee hee hee!
WHY DO YOU GE A JOB A JAPAN RAILWA

I'VE GOTTA GET MY OWN PLACE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

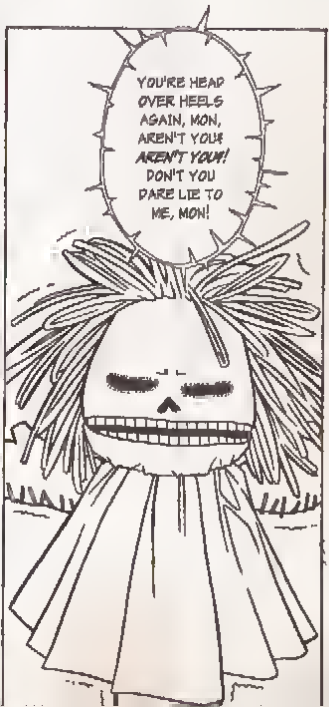
PLEASE, GOD, BUDDHA, ANYONE...
...FIND ME A NICE JOB TODAY.
AND MONEY, A HOUSE, A GIRLFRIEND, A CAR AND MORE MONEY.
WHEN YOU FINISH LOADING THIS, I'D LIKE YOU TO GO TO NISHI-TOWN
OKAY...

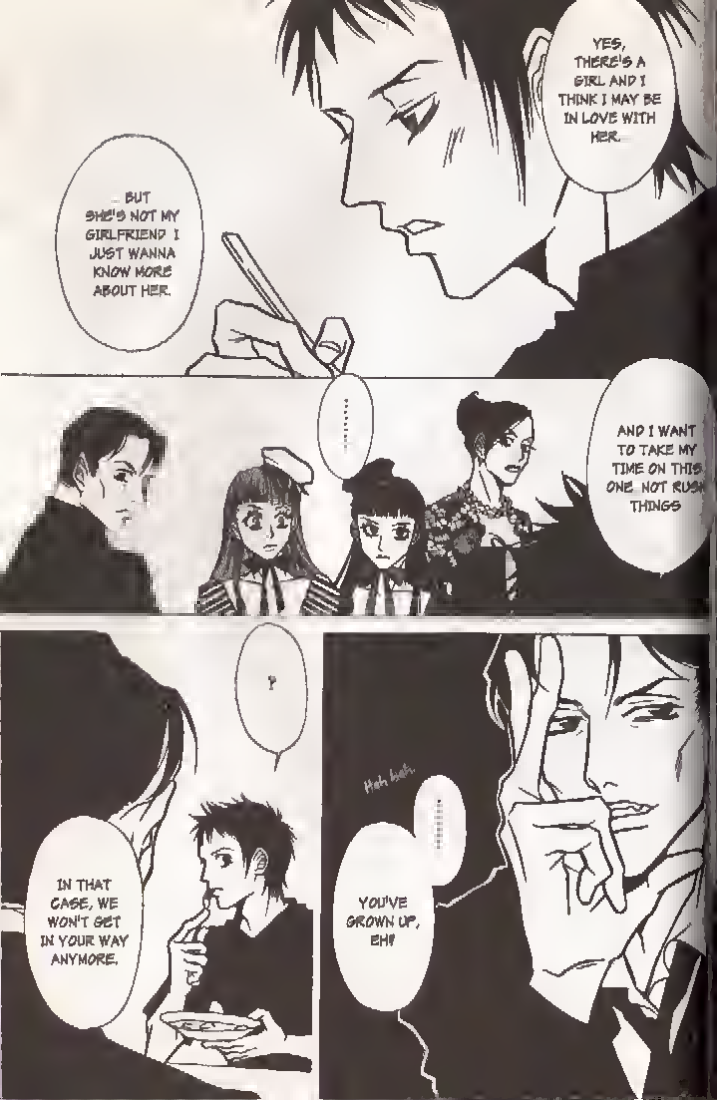
I WASN'T SEEING THINGS THE OTHER DAY. IT WAS ACTUALLY HER.

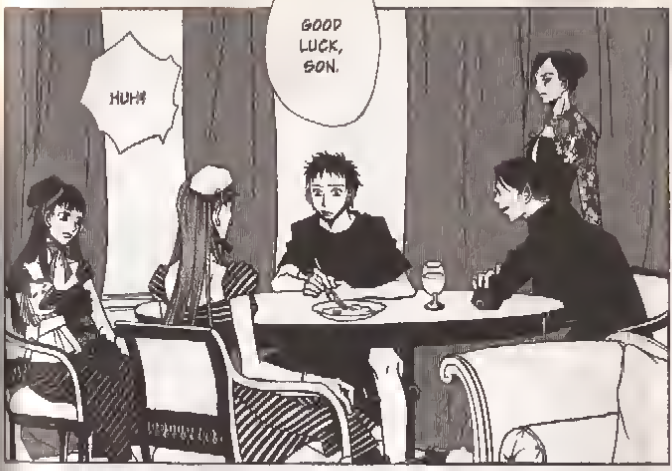
I SEE.
YEAH, I'VE BEEN BACK FOR HALF A YEAR MY DAD WAS RE-RELOCATED
BACK IN SCHOOL...
YOU USED TO DEFEND ME WHEN PEOPLE WOULD GIVE ME A HARD TIME ABOUT MY PARENTS


DID I...?
I WAS REALLY GLAD YOU DID.
WELL, I ONLY HAVE ONE PARENT, AND HE'S A LITTLE CRAZY, TOO.
Heh heh
I GUESS I THOUGHT IT WAS WRONG FOR PEOPLE TO JUDGE YOU BY YOUR PARENTS.
YOU'RE NOT THEM, AND THEY'RE NOT YOU, RIGHT?
I JUST
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANNA GO OUT WITH HER.

...WANT TO TALK TO HER SOME MORE.




YES, THERE'S A GIRL AND I THINK I MAY BE IN LOVE WITH HER.
...BUT SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND I JUST WANNA KNOW MORE ABOUT HER.
.....
AND I WANT TO TAKE MY TIME ON THIS ONE. NOT RUSH THINGS
?
IN THAT CASE, WE WON'T GET IN YOUR WAY ANYMORE.
Heh heh.
YOU'VE GROWN UP, EH!



ARE THEY... ARE THEY PLANNING SOMETHING?

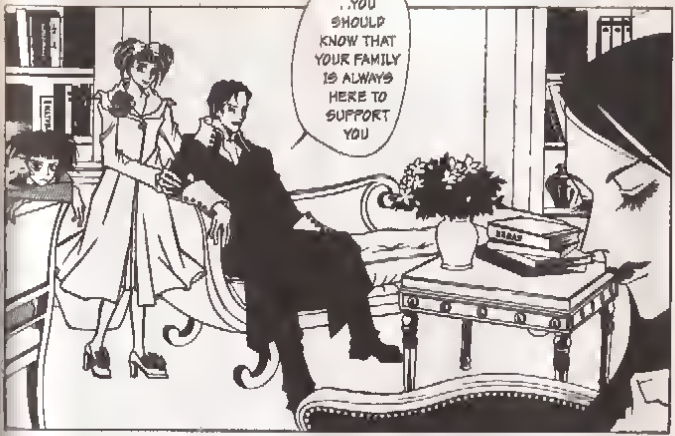
SABATO...

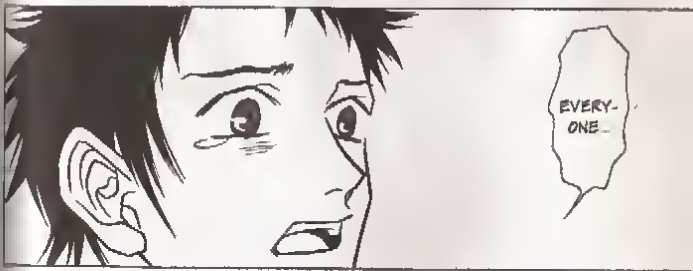
I'm not gonna let my guard down.

HEY!
WELL, I WAS LOOKING FOR A JOB ANYWAY.
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER! SOMEONE JUST QUIT IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO OFFER TO HELP US OUT LIKE THIS
GOOD!
YOU CAN CARRY THE HEAVIEST BOX, THEN!

I'M HOME!

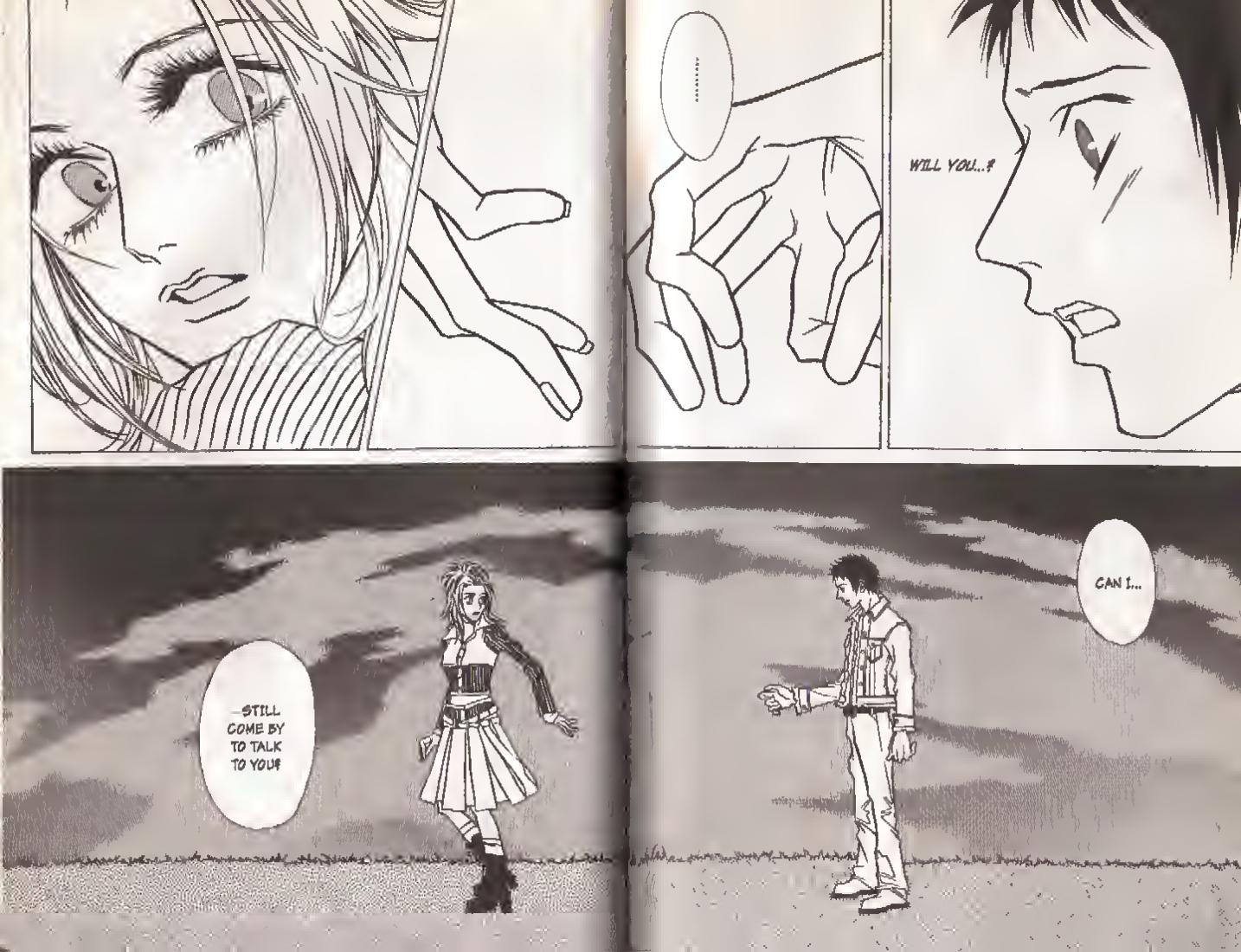
WHAT A FEAST!
WHOA!
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD WE FELT YOU DESERVED IT.
THIS IS FOR YOU, SABATO
Hu, ? WOW!
THE FLIGHT JACKET I ALWAYS WANTED!
WE ALL KNOW THAT IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO BE INDEPENDENT.
WE'LL MISS YOU, BUT .

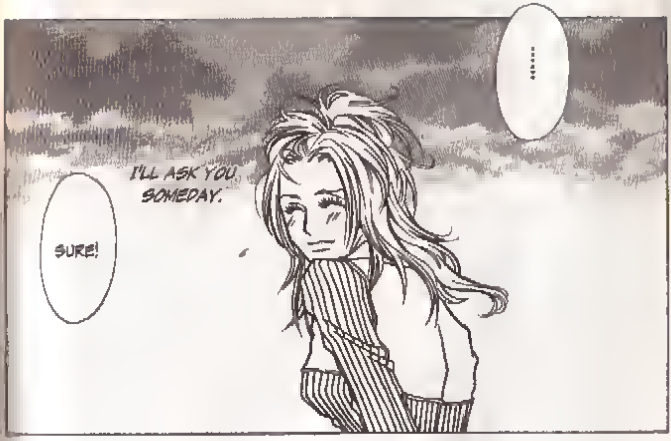

...YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOUR FAMILY IS ALWAYS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU


EVERY-ONE...

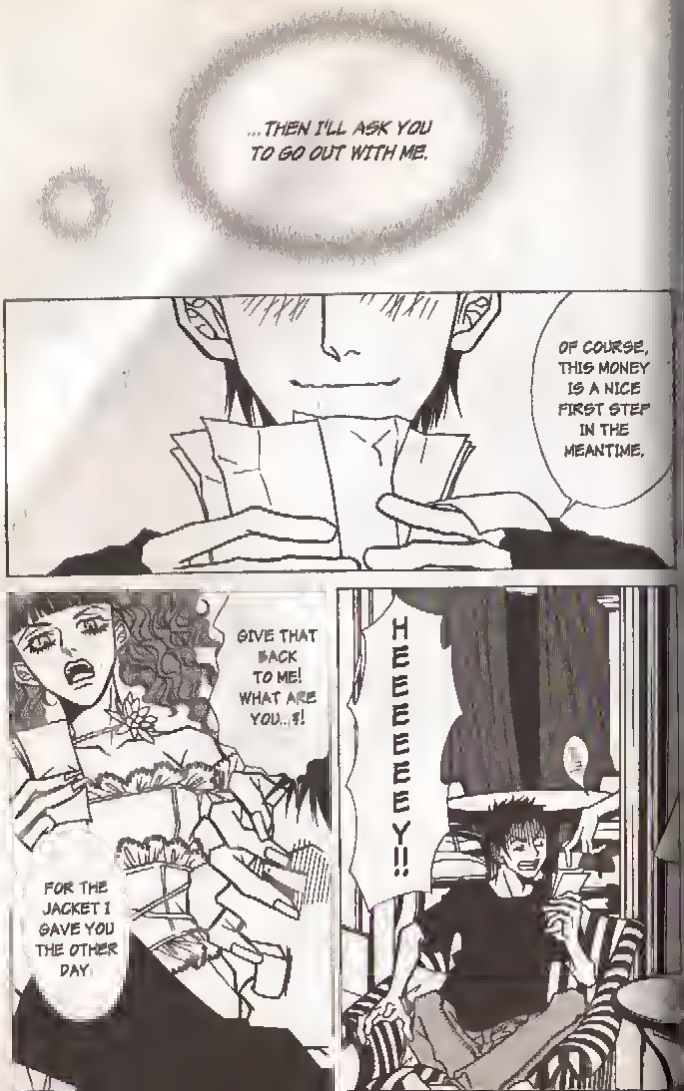
I'M SORRY I DOUBTED YOU.
...THANK YOU.

HERE'S YOUR PAY FOR THE MONTH.
MEGU.
YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP, KID.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
LOOKS LIKE WE FOUND A NEW PART-TIMER.
MAN, I REALLY WISH YOU COULD STAY ON INSTEAD, THOUGH...


.....
WILL YOU...?
—STILL COME BY TO TALK TO YOU?
CAN I...

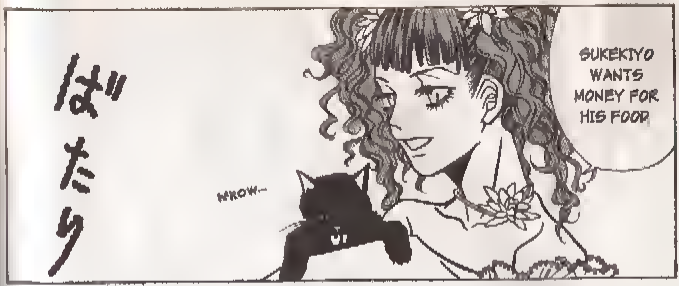


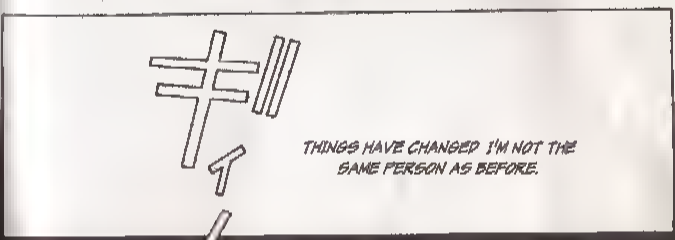
WHEN I BECOME INDEPENDENT...
WHEN I CAN PROUDLY SAY THAT MY FAMILY
IS MY FAMILY, BUT THAT I'M ME...

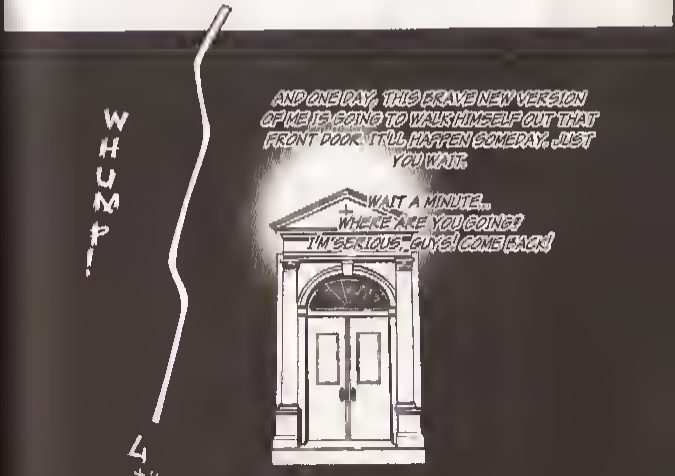

...THEN I'LL ASK YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME.
OF COURSE, THIS MONEY IS A NICE FIRST STEP IN THE MEANTIME.
GIVE THAT BACK TO ME! WHAT ARE YOU..?!
FOR THE JACKET I GAVE YOU THE OTHER DAY.
HEEEEEEY!!

NO... NO WAY!
WHAT?!
OH YES, I NEED SOME MONEY FOR THE FOOD
AND THIS SHOULD COVER YOUR SHARE OF THE RENT, SABATO
GYAAAAH!
I KNEW IT! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T BE TRUSTED!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT "SUPPORT YOUR INDEPENDENCE" CRAP?!
AND WISHING ME GOOD LUCK?! WHAT WAS THAT?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WE STILL WISH YOU NOTHING BUT THE BEST, SABATO.
GOOD LUCK.
GOOD LUCK, MY SON
ﾄｽﾝ
ﾌﾗｯ


はぁ
たり
MROW...
SUKEKIYO WANTS MONEY FOR HIS FOOD.


キィ
THINGS HAVE CHANGED. I'M NOT THE SAME PERSON AS BEFORE.


AND ONE DAY, THIS BRAVE NEW VERSION OF ME IS GOING TO WALK HIMSELF OUT THAT FRONT DOOR. IT'LL HAPPEN SOMEDAY. JUST YOU WAIT.
WHUMP!
ムギュ
WAIT A MINUTE...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M SERIOUS. GUYS! COME BACK!

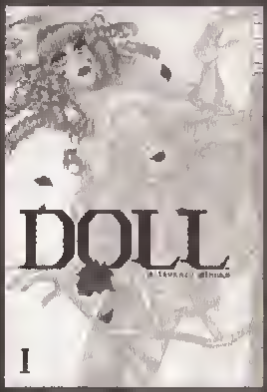
THE END

Welcome to the World of Mitsukazu Mihara...

Mitsukazu Mihara has been hailed as a Gothic Lolita visionary, and her writing has earned her comparisons to Isaac Asimov and Rod Serling. We hope you've enjoyed your trip through Mihera-sensei's Haunted House, but the journey is only beginning. Below are five other collections from Mitsukazu Mihara, a true master of the manga short story.

DOLL

This landmark anthology series, widely hailed as Mihara's masterpiece, is comprised of six volumes of interrelated stories about human-like androids that range from romantic to tragic, from comic to ironic, and everything in between.

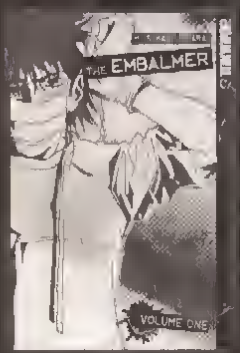


BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

A single volume of short stories that are as twisted as they are fascinating. In Beautiful People, we journey from the start of love to the end of civilization, with stops in madness, desperation and hope!

R.I.P.: Requiem in Phonybrian

Meet Transylvania Rose, a bored angel on Earth to clean a few souls. Rose has seen it all, but when she catches a depressed undertaker attempting suicide, she makes him a startling offer in this fascinating study of heaven and hell.



The Embalmer

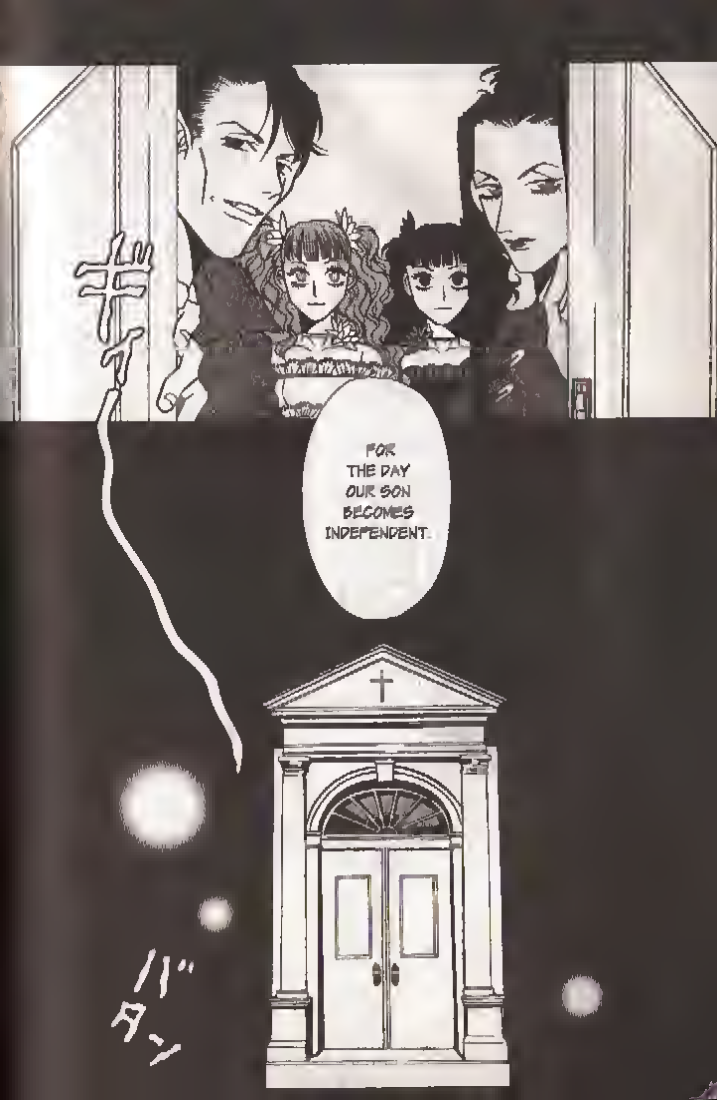
In this multi-volume series, Mihara introduces us to Shinjyurou Mamiya, an embalmer living in Japan. Death abounds in these often tragic tales, but Shinjyurou's humor and friendly flirtation with his neighbor keep the tone balanced while serving as a celebration of life.

IC in a Sunflower

This single volume collection launched the multi-volume Doll, and can be read as a standalone series or as an intriguing prequel. Beautiful art melds with thought-provoking ideas and compelling storytelling to create an early career landmark.

WHERE'S SABATO?
CRYING IN BED.
PUT THE MONEY IN HERE, AS ALWAYS.
WE COULD BLOW IT ALL ON BEAN BAG CHAIRS.
THIS MONEY IS THE FRUIT OF SABATO'S BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS, AND GOD HELP ME THAT MAKES ME WANT TO SPEND IT ON STUPID THIN...
Heh, heh!
FORGET BEAN BAGS! WE SHOULD ALL BUY SOME OF THOSE SHOES WITH ROLLER SKATES IN THEM!
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH JOKING.

RIGHT
THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT FUND.
OH, YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
The banker in me wants to do that
Though, admittedly, it'd be a little more fun if he lost it all.
IT'D BE FUN TO OPEN A HIGH-RISK, HIGH-RETURN FOREIGN CURRENCY SAVINGS ACCOUNT. WITH A LITTLE LUCK, YOU CAN REALLY MAKE A FORTUNE THAT WAY.
...LET'S KEEP IT FOR HIM.
UNTIL THE TIME IS RIGHT AND WE BREAK THIS SKULL OPEN...


FOR THE DAY OUR SON BECOMES INDEPENDENT.